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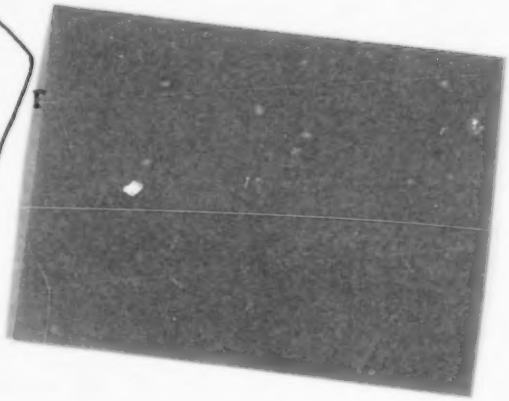
Women Helping Women



Introduction

Around the world Non-Governmental Organizations—NGOs—are at work to improve the status of women. In all regions they are helping women to attain equality and eliminate discriminatory laws and practices. They are working for the full participation of women in the development process. In countless towns and villages, they are encouraging women to help build the foundation for a lasting peace with justice and freedom.

During the Decade for Women, skills are being shared as women together seek a better life for all persons young and old. They are encouraging ideas, information and resources in a common effort to make possible the use of every woman's full potential for the benefit of her family, community and the nation in which she lives. Experiences are being passed on which are useful: ways of working which have been found effective, and suggestions for assistance which may be adopted to meet similar needs in different situations.

This booklet describes a variety of these programmes in different areas sponsored by a few of the many organizations actively engaged in making the 1975 World Plan of Action come alive in communities throughout the world. They were chosen from the thousands of projects designed to help women realize the goals of the Decade.

The 1975 World Plan of Action, important a manifesto as it WAS, and IS, remains in 1980, a document of dreams to be fulfilled.

This publication is evidence of the catalysing role that NGOs around the world are playing in trying to make those dreams reality for thousands of women, at ground level, in communities throughout the world. The projects in this booklet, chosen from thousands of NGO-sponsored programmes, illustrate the innovative spirit of many NGOs, in dealing with issues of primary concern to women and the communities in which they perform so central a role.

Without belittling the progress that has been made since 1975, it is also evident that little progress has been made in some areas, for example, in the outreach of established women's organizations to disadvantaged rural and urban women. In these little-touched areas NGO activity is especially vital. The involvement of NGOs in women's concerns and issues, a historical fact, is largely responsible for more recent government attention, and underscores the power of lobbying, and the part that special interest groups have to play in "encouraging" Governments to take action.

As long as the NGO community remains sensitive to the realities of women's lives, and continues to exert influence on official opinions and the actions of responsive governments, we can continue to hope that women will achieve the goals of the Decade. For women the world over, the message must be: GET INVOLVED.

Only the sustained concerted action of governmental and non-governmental organizations will translate the World Plan into a binding social contract.

Mrs. Lucille M. Mair

Secretary-General
of the World Conference
of the United Nations
Decade for Women

The themes for the United Nations Decade for Women (1975–1985) are:

EQUALITY DEVELOPMENT PEACE

The 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, in Copenhagen, besides taking up many political questions, also focused on:

EMPLOYMENT HEALTH EDUCATION

This booklet groups the various articles under each of these headings . . .

Hostel for Working Women

Equality

In recent years, there has been a remarkable influx of women into all occupations and professions. In India, more and more women are stepping out of the sheltered four walls of their small-town homes, and going out into the metropolitan cities in search of jobs and a career.

But, governed by custom and tradition, they are still not confident to live alone and face the trials of city life; they would much rather live in the protected environment of a women's hostel. Besides, salaries are low and rents are going up.

To provide reasonably priced accommodation to the middle class working woman, the All India Women's Conference (AIWC), the largest voluntary women's organization in India, decided to build a multi-storeyed hostel in New Delhi.

In 1975, the old building that housed about 50 working women was demolished and foundations laid for a six-storeyed hostel that would provide accommodation for 500 women. The master plan also envisages the construction of a dining hall, a kitchen, a library and a multi-purpose hall with a seating capacity of 600. The AIWC would also make available in the same complex, 3,000 square feet of rentable office space.

The project on completion is expected to cost $1.7 million. The Government of India has already given a grant of Rs 50 lakhs ($625,000). The rest is being raised through donations and loans from banks. Within the next seven years, AIWC will have repaid the bank loan from its rental income. Thereafter, the entire revenue will go towards social welfare projects.

The first phase of the project is now complete and 300 working women have already moved into the hostel.

In the same complex, the AIWC has also been running a free home for destitute women—those abandoned by their husbands and who, lacking professional skills, have no means of income and nowhere to go. These women are given free training in handicrafts, textile printing and secretarial work. The organization also runs a printing press where such women are trained free and are subsequently employed. Most women can resume a productive life in six months.

The AIWC also gives refuge and free legal advice to women having marital problems. In 90 per cent of the cases, the AIWC legal committee has been able to save a marriage thereby sparing the women the trauma of divorce which carries a heavy social stigma in Indian society.

For further information:

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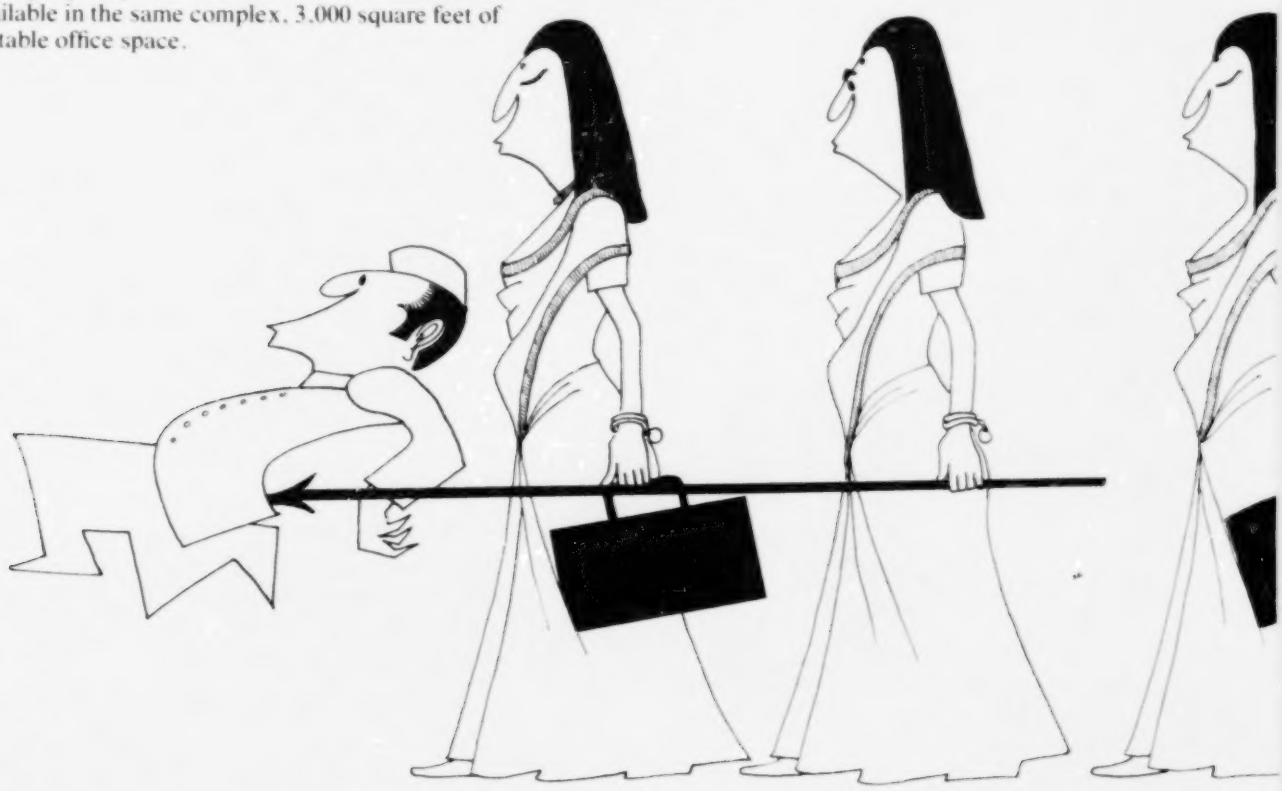

Hope for Greek Farm Women

Equality

There are over 1.5 million women living on farms in Greece, and their desperate situation has led to an active programme by the Federation of Greek Women, an affiliate of the Women's International Democratic Federation. To find out exact data on the plight of these women, the Federation of Greek Women, working with the Ministry of Agriculture and UNESCO, carried out a massive interview campaign to gather statistics relating to the economic, social, cultural and political life of the rural women in their communities.

What they found was the following:

1. None had finished elementary school.
2. None had social security in her own right; only coverage when her husband died.
3. There are no social organizations, nor social life except for church on Sundays.
4. There are no local health services.
5. Women lack self-esteem or a sense of their importance in the life of the family, the community or society.

Teams of Federation women travelled to more than 5,000 farming communities to research information on the rural women, who ranged in age from teenagers to women in their eighties. At first, the women were reluctant to talk about their condition. In one instance, a village priest's aid was enlisted, and he rang the church bell to call the women to the village square. Before they could succeed in their programme, the Federation had to convince the men that it was in their interest to advise the women to co-operate in the study because, as women organized and became sensitive to their problems, society as a whole would benefit. The men then gave the women permission to talk. The flood gates were opened and the rural women seemed to gain strength from the telling of their histories and conditions.

As a result of the findings of the mass study, the Federation held a Pan Hellenic Convention for the Rural Women during February 1980 in Thessalia, a farming area surrounded by tiny villages in northern Greece. One thousand rural women participated in the Convention and used the United Nations World Plan of Action to assess various indices of the quality of their life as regards education, literacy, health, and political participation. Together, they worked to prepare comprehensive legislation designed to improve their lives. Women Members of Parliament participated and will introduce necessary comprehensive legislation. Social security, health services and literacy centres are included in these projected laws.

This Convention was a first in the history of Greece and certainly in the lives of these rural women.

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Sexism in Textbooks

Equality

Prejudices against women begin at the school level. Sex-role stereotyping starts early in the education system. It is evident even in elementary school textbooks. In terms of quantity, a picture book illustration is more likely to show more boys than girls taking a course in mountain climbing. In terms of quality, one girl is a nurse, while a boy is a doctor; another girl is an airline stewardess, while a boy is the pilot. Are there no occupations other than these for a girl? A greater diversity is also shown for boys: a fireman, a policeman, a football player, an engineer or an architect. A picture that does not portray sex-role stereotypes would have shown the same occupational diversity for girls. There is need for a world-wide recognition of women as persons in their own right. Women are not only mothers, sisters, wives and daughters, any more than men are only fathers, brothers, husbands and sons.

As a result of the continuing efforts of members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the California State Division during 1976–1977 carried out an evaluation of sexism in California textbooks. A grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation made it possible to broaden the impact of the project.

In March 1974, members of the California Branch of AAUW met with a school board member who approved the Branch idea of studying state-adopted primary texts in order to identify stereotyped male and female roles. The major concerns were whether boys or girls dominated the stories, who was pictured most often in the story, the physical manner in which the children were depicted and the examples of adult role models in the stories.

Later that year, an evaluation for sex stereotyping of the 10 most frequently used primary school textbooks was presented to school board members, the general public and the local press. A sample folder of alternative (non-sexist optional) curriculum resources to supplement the existing texts was presented for consideration. It included a record, "Free to Be You and Me", reading lists, lesson plans, and an AAUW booklet, "Free To Decide What You Want To Be". Within three weeks the school board budgeted funds to cover printing of the booklet for use in primary grades.

This was followed by members of 15 more AAUW Branches evaluating textbooks used in their local school districts. A slide presentation was prepared showing the contrast between sexist and non-sexist texts for use as a framework in determining the criteria for legal compliance in California. They consist of the following:

—References which are in the form of labels that demean, stereotype or are patronizing towards females, should not appear.

—There should be equal representation of males and females (including illustrations).

—Even distribution should appear between sexes in problem-solving roles, creativity, mental and physical activity, success and failures, traditional and non-traditional roles.

—There should be impartial distribution of emotions regardless of gender or characters.

—Professional roles, life-styles, and aspirations for the future, if portrayed, should be comparable for characters of both sexes.

—Historical contributions, if presented, should include those of both sexes.

—Sexually neutral language should be used wherever possible.

The ongoing ever-widening circles of the California effort are marks of effective volunteer activity. Such activity represents a positive step towards achieving equality of the sexes.

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Water For Development

Development

Water is hard to come by in Kenya—a paradise for tourist safaris but a constant drudgery for the rural population for whom healthy, clean drinking water is a luxury. Wildlife survives where people and domestic animals cannot.

Torrential rains lasting only two months in some areas, seep quickly into the parched earth and the water is lost. Nomads, such as the Masai, follow the rain-clouds, moving from one water-hole to another as their cattle graze, ever seeking new pastures.

In some villages, women walk for miles with huge cans tied to their backs to fetch polluted water from dank, grimy ponds covered with scum and insects. This is the water the people drink and wash in, and to which they bring their animals.

The time and energy spent in collecting water allows exhausted women to do little else, least of all look after their children who, themselves, must help with chores and, therefore, cannot go to school. Water-borne diseases are a major contributor to child mortality.

An attempt to break this vicious circle and to implement the International Women's Year World Plan of Action agreed on at Mexico City in 1975 is being made by a group of non-governmental organizations in Kenya, with the assistance of the NGO Committee of UNICEF and its sub-committee on Women and Development.

Kenya was chosen as a testing -ground for joint NGO/UNICEF action because of its strong *harambee* (self-help) approach to community development. The main objective of the project is to bring fresh water supplies to particularly under-served villages, thus providing an entry point for a variety of activities such as village sanitation, prevention of infectious diseases, immunization, production of nutritious foods, health and nutrition education, and training workshops for women.

The NGO/UNICEF Kenya Water-For-Health project is an action programme by and for women, to help bring women into the mainstream of the development process. The project has involved 30 NGOs working together as a group under the "umbrella" of the National Council of Women in Kenya and in collaboration with UNICEF and with the participation of women at grassroots level. The women in Kenya have been responsible for choosing the project focus and for project planning and decision making. Today, the over-all Project includes 13 area projects encompassing all seven provinces of Kenya. International NGOs have provided funds for the cost of water tanks, equipment supplies and support personnel. But, well over $100,000 is still required if the project is to install nearly two thousand 500-gallon water tanks in water-deprived villages and communities, and serve as an example of what can be done by the people themselves.

The National Council for Women bought the first water tank in Olosh-Oibor. The Masai, who inhabit the area, collected enough money among themselves to pay for three more. The Association for University Women and the Zonta Club at Nairobi provided the money to buy the rest of the tanks needed, and funds from the International Planned Parenthood Federation are being used to buy pipes to complete the project. Soon, all 13 villages in the area will be receiving piped water.

The Kenya Government's UNICEF-assisted Village Technology Unit at Karen, outside Nairobi, has produced an inexpensive model of a cement water jar with a tap at the base for the collection of rain water. Fifty of these have been installed and will hopefully stimulate adoption by the whole community.

The provision of one service has implications for many others. Clean water close to the house not only improves the health of children and their parents, but the time saved enables the mother to spend more time with her children. She can also undertake income-producing activities, grow more nutritious food, and be trained in a number of skills. With such a water supply, remote communities can build their own schools and request the Government to supply a teacher, who would otherwise be reluctant to come.

And so the NGO women of Kenya, representing many international and national organizations are concentrating upon this aspect of under-development—not only the provision of water tanks but also well-digging, building windmills, installing *mabati* (corrugated aluminium) roofing, and planting trees. With these must go village sanitation campaigns, the elimination of rats, flies, fleas and mosquitoes, immunization, nutrition and health education, and family-planning. They are not just talking about these needs, they are designing the projects themselves, choosing their locations and visiting remote areas to bring their regional and area members into the programme.

But local funds are limited. Persuasion must be accompanied by some financial input if the villagers are to make a contribution themselves.

The NGO/UNICEF project is a beginning. Women through their own efforts, their skills and competence are meeting basic needs. Beginning with water, moving on to education in health, sanitation, family care and better technology, each represents an important step along the way for the improvement of women's lives.

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Boats Bring People Together

Development

Maldives, the smallest independent country in Asia, is also one of the poorest—a country of 2,000 small islands grouped together around 19 coral atolls in the Indian Ocean, southwest of India and Sri Lanka.

These green tropical islands stretch north to south for about 500 miles, and east to west for about 80 miles at the widest point, and yet the total area of land is only 115 square miles. Few islands are more

than a mile in length. In such an environment, a boat is a necessity both to link the 150,000 inhabitants, scattered over the ocean, and for fishing to provide the staple food. Boats are essential too for bringing basic education to the inhabitants—another area of challenge and strain in the Maldives.

Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization, is working with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on a four-year project to help provide the much-needed sea transport to these islands. The project was launched at the Soroptimist International Convention in Sheffield, England, in 1975. By the end of 1978, there were seven boats in service in areas which hitherto had no regular transport facilities.

It is envisaged that the boats will take education materials to the Community Education Centres in the 19 atolls. Teachers are being trained on fellowships from the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Centres and the schools will be used from early in the morning until late at night to cover the needs of primary education, functional literacy, health care, including nutrition, and teaching women simple crafts.

Health workers are being trained to take charge of the health boats to the outer atolls. The boats provided by UNICEF and Soroptimist International are basically the traditional fishing *dhonis* but with a deck, cabin and superstructure added. Fourteen persons can be carried sitting in the cabin and there is good cupboard space for medical supplies. Each boat carries a sail and paddles, in case of motor failure. The time taken to reach the hospital in Male from the farthest islands will be cut from days to hours and for the first time, the communities in these islands will have good medical care. When necessary, patients will be taken to the hospital for attention.

There is close co-operation between the health and education projects, between the Ministries concerned, and between the United Nations agencies: UNICEF, UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The aim of both the projects is to train the Maldivians to train themselves. The boats would help meet the "self-help" aims of all the interrelated projects for health, education and general development; projects that depend entirely on the ability to travel easily from one island to another.

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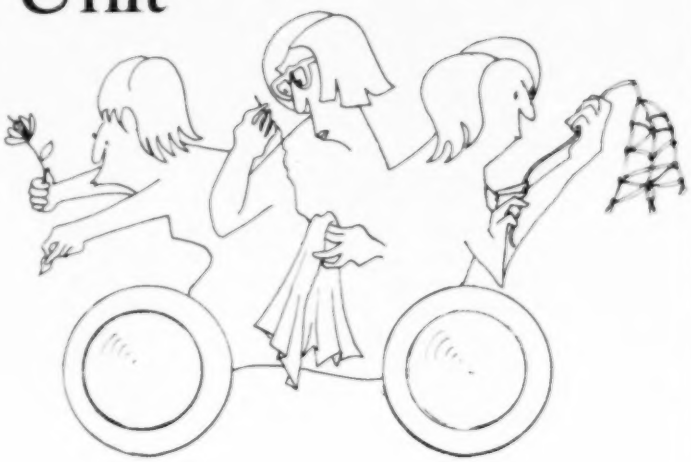
Mobile Occupational Unit



Development

Women are often not aware of possibilities that exist for the use of locally available resources to either create tools for their work or to provide for other sources of earned income. Or, they might be aware of these resources, but have no idea how to acquire the necessary equipment, know-how or training to render them serviceable.

In Thailand, the Federation of Business and Professional Women (FBPW), has started a project to teach women in rural and congested urban areas simple crafts which will help them become self-sufficient or at least will assist them in supplemc .ng the family income.

The project aims at raising the standard of living of low income families and bridging the gap between the illiterate rural women and the educated women living in cities.

The Mobile Occupational Unit, which consists of project committee members, experts and instructors, travels to villages and urban slums and teaches women how to make artificial flowers or the art of macramé knitting, free of charge. They also distribute pamphlets or leaflets giving detailed instructions.

The instructors' fees, the cost of materials and all travel expenses are met by members of the FBPW in Thailand.

The occupational unit which started operation in 1978 has so far provided services five times to each of the communities in which training programmes were initiated.

At Wat Kingkeo, 50 women were taught to make orchids from silk fabric and wires. A mobile van

travelled to Wat Bang Sao Tong Klang and experts taught 50 women and teenage girls to make artificial roses that could be used as corsages. Thirty others were given instructions in the art of macramé knitting. The mobile unit returned three times to complete the knitting course. Now nearly 40 women in the district earn a handsome living making macramé handbags, shopping bags, flower pot hangers or window screens.

In the Muang district, two types of courses were given to about 80 women, men and teenagers. While in the morning they learned to make Chinese doughnuts, the afternoon course taught them how to grow mushrooms which are becoming a popular source of income in many villages.

The project can easily be duplicated elsewhere. It requires only a van and trained teachers. There is a good market for handicrafts which women can easily be taught.

The FBPW members advertise the date, time and place for the courses, which are free. The programme has also received national coverage on the radio in a monthly series entitled "For a Better Future". The programme aims at creating a better informed public, both socially and economically.

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Build the Cities, Not the War Machine

Peace

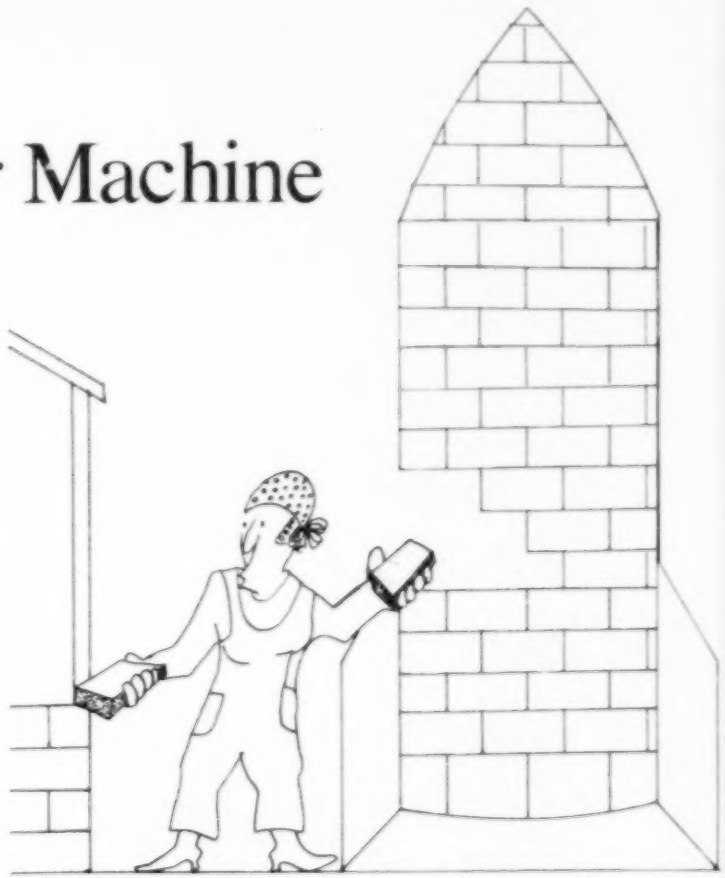
National defence begins at home. It begins with the things that make life worthwhile for the average industrial worker, farmer, or small business person. Military spending in every country is eating money by causing greater inflation, unemployment, shortages, increased prices and competition for scarce raw materials. Unemployment is a world-wide problem.

The re-ordering of national priorities requires the re-adjustment of military and domestic expenditures in the national budgets. If the fiscal malnutrition of the poor is to be cured, the fiscally fat military has to go on a diet.

A programme to reverse the priorities—to feed the people instead of the war machine—has been carried out for four years in the United States by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Local branches, in coalition (or in co-operation) with other groups, have organized delegations to visit local officials and government bodies to demand a change in priorities from the military budget to domestic needs.

As a result many United States officials at the local level have publicly called upon the national leaders "to redress the imbalance between domestic expenditures and the expenditures of the military" and make immediate relief available to the cities for improving social services and human welfare.

Included in the campaign is statistical evidence that a decrease in military spending will not increase unemployment but will have the opposite effect.



Extensive discussions have also been held on the question of inflation and its relationship to military spending.

It is a fact that making sensible reductions in the military budget could help meet the acute needs of the poor in cities.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has calculated that the amount

of money needed to produce one prototype bomber could pay for the following.

—a year's salary for 250,000 teachers;

—30 science faculties with 1,000 students each; or

—75 fully equipped hospitals, each with 100 beds.

The WILPF campaign has provided innumerable opportunities to discuss peace, disarmament and the essential role of women in furthering the World Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Women. This has been done through meetings in coalition with other women's organizations, radio and television programmes, letters to editors of local newspapers and distribution of thousands of pieces of literature bringing the message of peace and the role of women to a wide audience, which otherwise might not be reached by the message of the Decade for Women.

Similar campaigns are also being launched by WILPF branches in Europe and other parts of the world.

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Ghana School Project and International Mutual Service through Travel

Peace

In 1963, the rains in Ghana were more than the Volta River could take. At the mouth of the river lies Kennedy Island (also referred to as Pediator-Korpe). It consists of seven different islands where most of the homes were destroyed and the primary school serving 430 children was completely demolished. The Government was unable to rebuild the school because of the many villages requesting educational assistance.

The children still continue to attend school in the open, under palm trees, but during the rainy season, they miss a number of school days. The nearest enclosed schools are at Big Ada, the municipal town on the mainland, and primary school-children face the difficulties and dangers of travelling daily about four miles by dugout canoes across the swift currents of the Volta to school and back. Many have drowned crossing the river.

There is an organization, Servas International, which sends its members all over the world breaking down cultural and national barriers.

On his visit to Ghana in 1971, Joe Jiggetts, a member of Servas International and a public school teacher in New York City, met a teacher from Pediator-Korpe Island, who explained the problems they were experiencing in rebuilding their island school.

On his return to New York, Mr. Jiggits together with Lydia Jones, an educationist, wrote letters to several organizations, requesting money, but no avail.

In 1975, Servas International decided to build the school itself, and raised money for the construction by organizing several raffles, social events and an African evening. Six classrooms have now been built and the organization hopes to build four three-room apartments for the teachers, an office for the school-master, and a commissary. Eleven planners and 50 participants from "Crossroads" and "Volu", two local volunteer organizations, are involved in the project.

Lydia Jones will soon have put into practice her mother's quotation, "If you start it, finish it, or do not do it at all."

The completion of the school has been delayed because of difficulties in obtaining material, particularly cement, and because of irregular mail service. A cheque for the purchase of materials was lost for a year.

Appreciative of the efforts of the organizers, the School Development Committee of the island requested permission to name two of the Pediator-Korpe islands as Lydia Jones Island and Joe Jiggetts Island respectively.

Servas International is also continuing successfully with its primary activity of "bringing the world into our living room through the visits of friendly, enthusiastic people from every continent". Its "Open-Door System of Work, Study, Travel" enables the international exchange of hosts and travellers to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for deeper, more personal contacts among people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

You plan your own trip, using lists of hosts in the countries where you wish to go. These lists give the hosts' addresses, telephone numbers, languages spoken, activities and interests. You share the everyday life of the family you visit. Stays are usually two or three days. Hosts share their meals with travellers and provide basic accommodation. Foreign visitors are invited to share life in the home and in the community and to share their concerns on social and international problems and their interests in creative activity: a remarkable way to dissolve barriers between people and their countries.

For further information:

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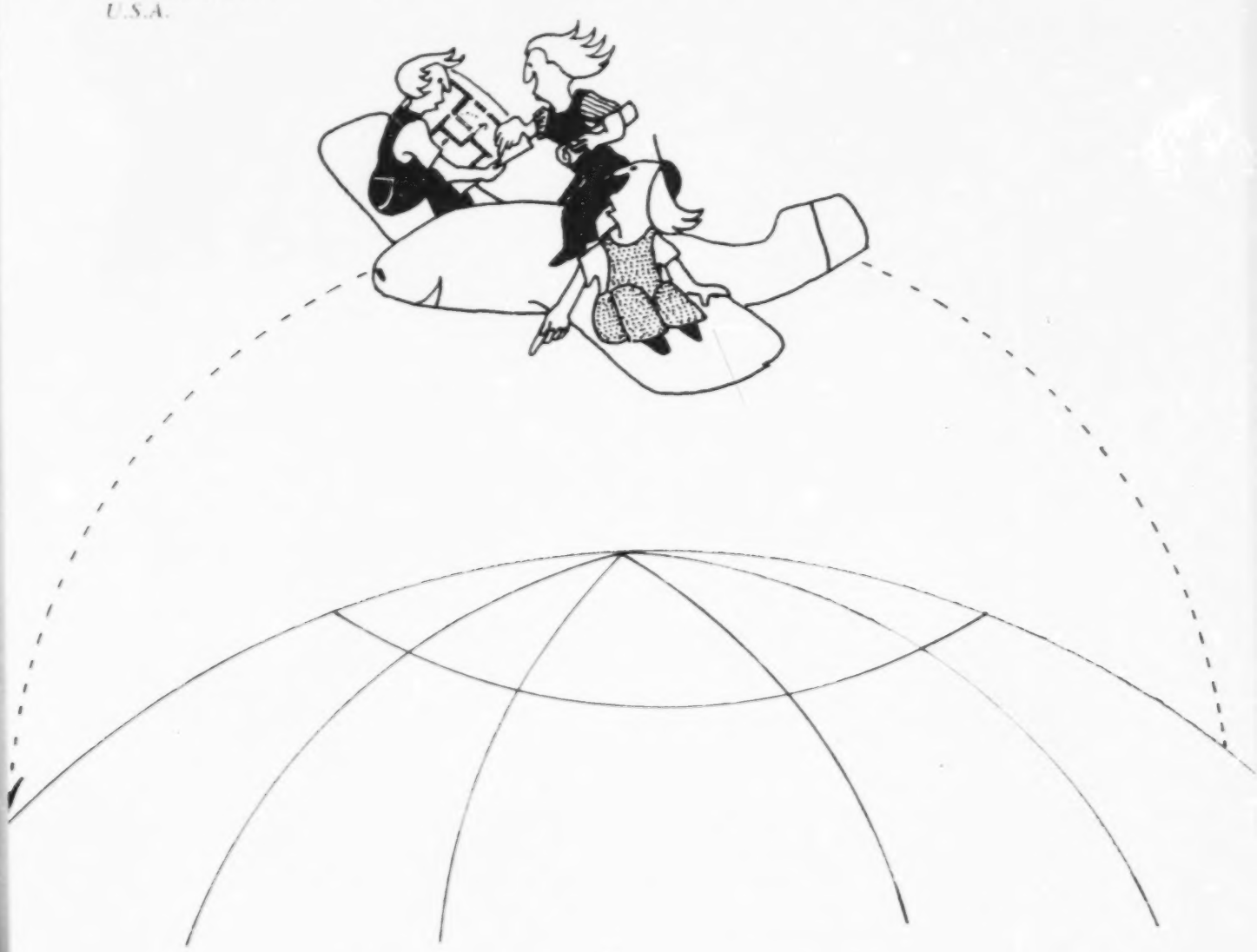

Books Build Bridges Too

Peace

Fired by the talks that they heard at the United Nations International Women's Year Conference at Mexico City in 1975, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs of the United States, decided to send five of its members to Africa. Their mandate: find a project that would further human rights, one of the major themes of the World Plan of Action adopted at the Mexico Conference.

For several reasons, they decided to focus on the Gambia. That country lacks substantial resources; economic growth has been slow. Fishing and fish processing are the main sources of revenue with peanut oil and soft drink bottling producing some income. Of the approximate 525,000 people in the Gambia, 57,000 are reportedly employed. Most of these workers are in Banjul, the capital, which alone has an estimated population of 45,000.

During their visit to the Gambia, the team met with Louise N'Jie, a noted Gambian educator. During a tea held at her home, she expressed her concerns about educating Gambian youth. Children, she said, needed books to learn science and a useful vocation.

The team headed by Daisy George, the Association's representative at the United Nations, was put in touch with the Methodist Preparatory School in Banjul. There they agreed on a project to finance a children's library. Later, the delegation was able to establish a "twinning" arrangement with a school in Great Neck, New York.

Recently they received a letter from the Banjul School's principal, Ronah Forbes, who wrote: "We shall be grateful to receive simple primary science textbooks and some science equipment to do simple experiments, visual aids on metrication, as we are going metric . . . and any other teaching aids for math and science."

After contacting officials of the United Nations Development Programme for advice, the Association located excellent textbooks in science which will be sent. In addition, the project will be expanded to create five public school libraries in the Gambia, with the help of the Gambian Government.

Each club in the Association plans to raise $100 a year for the next three years for the book project. They are helping to make their saying, adopted in 1851, come true:

> "If Eve, the first woman God ever made
> Was strong enough to turn
> The world upside down alone
> The women of today ought to be able
> To get it right side up again!"

For further information:

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Vocational Training for Women in Bangladesh

Peace

The 1971 war of independence in Bangladesh wrought havoc and devastation. Particularly affected were the women, many of whom lost their fathers, husbands or sons. When Bangladesh became a reality, rehabilitation and reconstruction plans demanded the full participation of a women's organization like the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in order to assure that they benefitted women in a country where tradition had previousiy not favoured their equal status and role in society.

The YWCA immediately studied ways in which it could respond most effectively to the needs of women and how women's needs related to the priority needs of the new nation as a whole. As a result, a project for the training of nursing aides and junior midwives was launched and started to function in June, 1972.

The project, through training, aimed at opening up job opportunities for about 30 women as nursing aides and junior midwives. Further, the YWCA provided housing for the trainees which gave students the opportunity for extracurricular activities of an educational, social and recreational nature along with their training.

The Holy Family Red Cross Hospital offered training facilities for the project. The YWCA covered the related costs and was responsible for the selection of trainees. The minimum age was fixed at 17 years and the educational requirement was the completion of Grade VIII. Anyone interested in this type of training was free to apply, but in the final selection, priority was given to those women who had been particularly affected by the war. The duration of the course for nurses aides was set at one year, and for the junior midwives at two years.

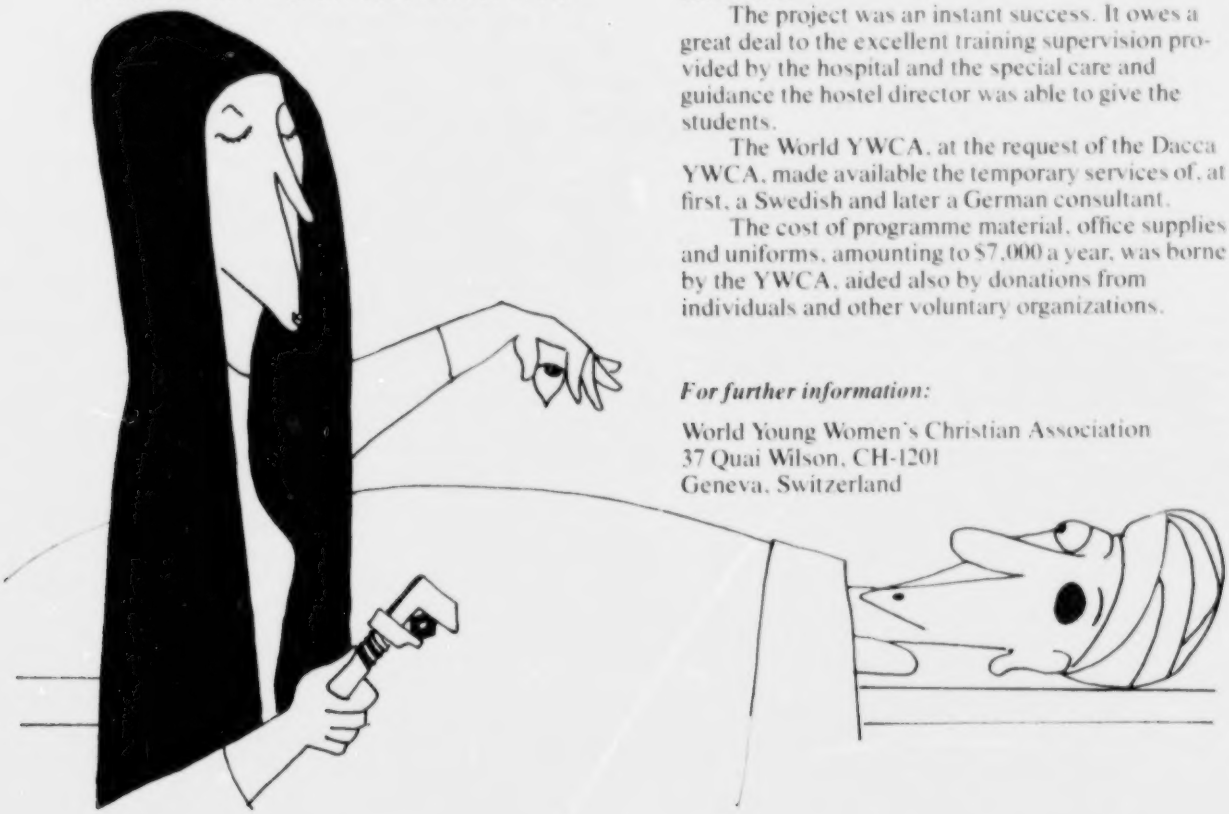
The YWCA was fortunate in finding suitable accommodation for the students close to the hospital. There was also sufficient room for other activities such as language training, sports and art classes.

In June 1973, the first group of 17 nursing aid trainees graduated and were immediately placed in hospitals and clinics. Many more have graduated since then.

The project was an instant success. It owes a great deal to the excellent training supervision provided by the hospital and the special care and guidance the hostel director was able to give the students.

The World YWCA, at the request of the Dacca YWCA, made available the temporary services of, at first, a Swedish and later a German consultant.

The cost of programme material, office supplies and uniforms, amounting to $7,000 a year, was borne by the YWCA, aided also by donations from individuals and other voluntary organizations.



For further information:

World Young Women's Christian Association
37 Quai Wilson, CH-1201
Geneva, Switzerland

Handicraft Co-operative in Uruguay

Employment

Fraile Muerto, situated in Uruguay's interior, is a small picturesque town where a number of housewives banded together in 1969 to form a handicraft co-operative. Their objective: to improve their families' low incomes and to help improve their standard of living by marketing rugs, blankets, ponchos, and other craft products, both locally and internationally.

Created in 1969, the *Cooperativa Artesanal Regional de Fraile Muerto* (the Regional Handicraft Co-operative of Fraile Muerto), currently comprises 92 craftswomen, and is the leader of the other artisan co-operatives in the region such as Rincón de la Urbana, Quebracho, Rincón de Pi, and Tres Islas.

The Fraile Muerto region is plagued by serious transportation problems. For example, the bad roads become impassable during the rainy season, isolating many towns. When this occurs, the handicraft co-operatives are cut off from their wool supplies. One aspect of this problem has recently been solved, however, since the service centre of the *Manos del Uruguay* co-operative in Montevideo—the capital of Uruguay—can supply the co-operatives with plenty of wool prior to the arrival of the rainy season. Thanks to an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) loan, the centre has been able to stock ample wool to meet all the needs of the country's cooperatives.

Manos del Uruguay is a non-profit association comprising 18 co-operatives or handicraft groups which have 988 women members. In 1976, the IDB approved $65,000 in non-reimbursable technical co-operation to expand its marketing capacity. At present, the co-operatives products are sold to large department stores in the United States through a New York distributor. In 1978, the *Banco de la República Oriental del Uruguay* listed *Manos del Uruguay* for the third straight year as the country's largest exporter of handicraft products.

In October 1978, the Bank approved $500,000 in financing to help *Manos del Uruguay* carry out an expansion programme which will benefit women craftworkers in rural areas where 18 co-operatives operate. These co-operatives are expected to achieve a sales volume totalling $3.7 million by 1983, which will represent a 370 per cent increase over 1977. The IDB's loan will be used for working capital, the acquisition of equipment for both co-operatives and the service centre, and the purchase and rehabilitation of buildings. The project will also enable 500 new craft workers to join the co-operatives.

An IDB programme instituted in 1978 for the financing of small productive projects has made this project possible. Under the programme, the Bank set aside $5 million to finance small productive projects and social projects in its developing member countries in Latin America. To qualify for financing, the project should: (i) be based on self-help criteria; (ii) directly benefit marginal groups which do not have access to public or commercial credit; (iii) generate new job opportunities; and (iv) utilize a high percentage of raw materials and some semi-finished products of national origin.

For further information:

Cooperativa Artesanal Regional de Fraile Muerto
c/o Unit for the Financing of Small Projects
Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, D.C. 20577
U.S.A.

Co-operative Development in Poland

Employment

Rural housewives are not only consumers. In Poland, there is a large percentage of women who are agricultural producers who run their farms together with the men of the family. For every 100 men, there are 123 women working in agriculture. There are also farms run by women alone. And women are also responsible for feeding their families, providing them with clothing and managing the households.

After World War II, even though most women were without sound professional training and had not done salaried work, many women in Poland had to provide for their families alone since their husbands had been killed in the war. As the women could not manage alone, they started to associate in producers' (work) co-operatives and started jointly to purchase raw materials, to produce and market their goods. A great number of such co-operatives which started from scratch in 1945 have become big production enterprises, owning modern equipment and buildings.

In Poland, there are many different types of co-operatives. There are rural multi-purpose (supply and marketing) co-operatives, as well as co-operatives for dairy and market gardening, sewing, credit, collective farming, health, consumer goods, housing, producers, and handicrafts.

Co-operatives operate in all sectors where women are directly involved. Consumers who shop in co-operative stores, residents living in co-operative houses, users of co-operative services or producers of merchandise are all participants in the co-operative system.

In rural areas of Poland, co-operatives handle nearly 100 per cent of all sales of consumers' and producers' goods. Therefore, the availability of articles in stock in co-operative shops, their location

and efficient service render considerable assistance to women.

Co-operatives provide many women with their first jobs. They also give women (many of whom have been unable to learn a vocation in the course of their school education) the opportunity to acquire new qualifications.

Particularly spectacular results have been achieved in the cottage industries in rural areas. Polish village women make a variety of straw mats and laces, weave rugs and produce homespun cloth, turning out hundreds of other artifacts which are in demand both at home and abroad.

Co-operatives in Poland help women not only economically but also socially. They have provided women with new horizons to add to their knowledge and professional qualifications.

The status of women is one of the principal targets of socio-economic policy in Poland. The image that is taking shape is that of the vital woman—maintaining an active social, economic and intellectual life, while helping to expand the well-being of her family.

For further information:

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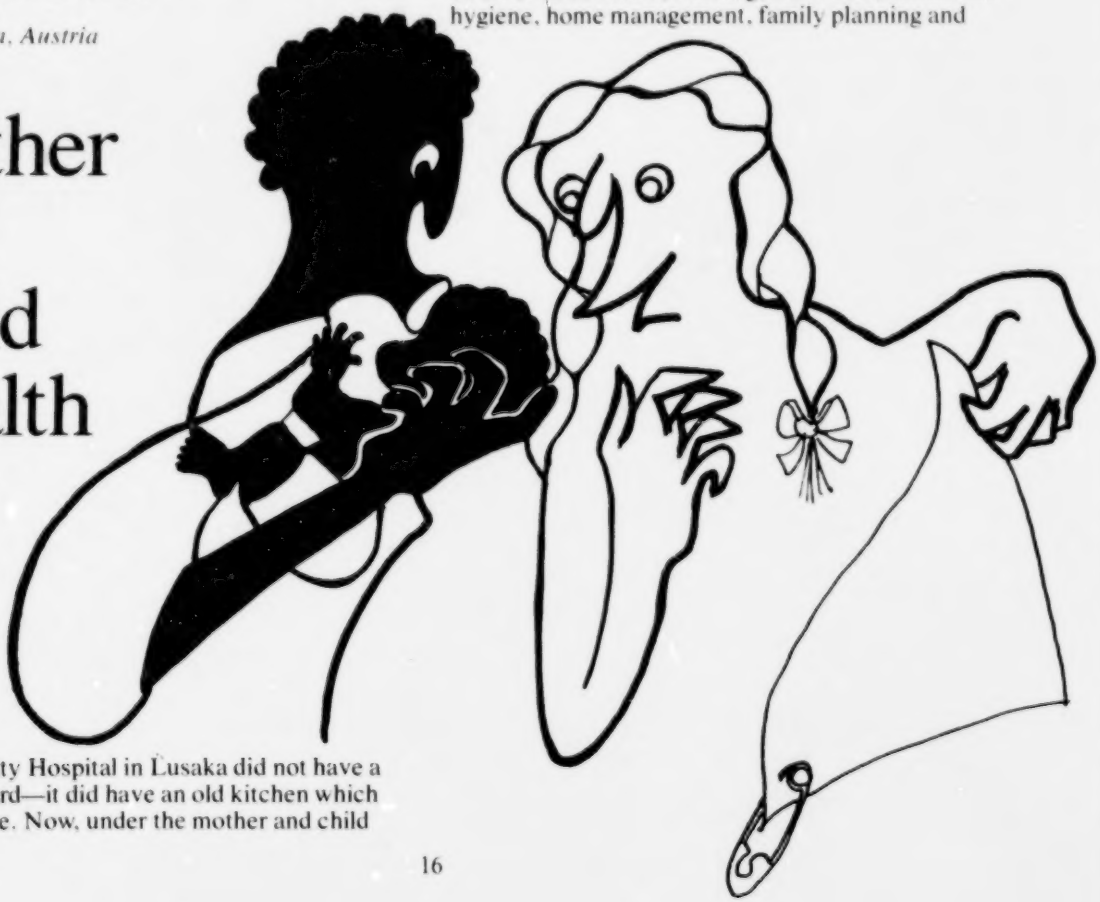
Mother and Child Health



Health

The University Hospital in Lusaka did not have a maternity ward—it did have an old kitchen which was not in use. Now, under the mother and child health project, the hospital has both a functioning kitchen and a maternity ward. The mother and child health project was conceived at the Lusaka Seminar of Zambian Women after three Zambian women had attended the Mauritius Seminar of the International Alliance of Women—an African regional seminar which discussed maternal and child health. The Ministry of Health agreed to provide funds for the kitchen and also to renovate it into a maternity ward. Mothers and infants with after-birth complications now use the ward.

The Zambian women who attended the Lusaka seminar formed the National Alliance of Women in Zambia and took responsibility for the Lusaka mother and child health project as a pilot project. It is hoped that similar projects will be started at all hospitals and clinics in the country.

The Zambian National Alliance of Women was greatly encouraged and helped by the Federation of Women in the Federal Republic of Germany which donated a bus for transportation to and from the hospital. The German women also sent 200 pounds of baby clothes in the bus. In the near future it is proposed to have a trained mid-wife as driver of the bus.

The National Alliance of Women in Zambia plans to involve all member organizations in providing their expertise free of charge to women and infants at the Lusaka University Teaching Hospital. Courses in nutrition, cooking, child care, health and hygiene, home management, family planning and

sewing will be given to the mothers while they wait for their infants to recover from illness or, in the case of premature births, to gain weight. The different women's organizations will take turns teaching the women various subjects.

In addition, the Government of Zambia will participate in the project through the Ministries of Health and Labour and Social Services which will offer medical, personnel and social workers' assistance to help the women. The Zambia Council for Social Development and individual women from Zambia and other countries have also given funds to the project.

For further information:

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National Alliance of Women in Zambia
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Centre for Continuing Education
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Lusaka, Zambia

Colombia Urban Slum Project

Health

The growth rate of Colombia's urban slums (called *barrios*)—where 25 per cent of the urban population lives—is about 15 per cent annually. The slum population doubles every four years. New communities have been formed on steep hillsides where there is no water, no sewarage and no electrification. But the *barrios* have become a permanent part of the cities.

As always, it is the children and women who suffer most. While their parents search for employment, children roam the streets because they have no home, and beg because they are hungry. Women, weakened by the drudgeries of *barrio* life, are helpless to deal with the infant mortality, stunted growth and the variety of illnesses and suffering afflicting their children. All the evidences of malnutrition, lack of sanitation and health care characterize the *barrios* and make them breeding grounds of desperation and disease.

And it is here, in Colombia's burgeoning *barrios* that Zonta International, a service organization of business and professional women is concentrating its service to the improvement of the quality of life of women and children.

Zonta International, in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund and the Colombian Health Plan, has already established three modules of coverage (MACs) in the *barrios*, providing medical care, as well as health, nutrition and sanitation education, and supervision for the people. More are planned.

Each MAC is designed to serve 9,000 persons and dispenses care, treatment and instruction through six health stations. Each station is constructed with pre-fabricated units and is located in an area convenient for close contact with about 1,500 slum dwellers.

The six health stations of each MAC established with funds contributed by Zonta clubs throughout the world, house a medical examination and treatment area, a common room, a bathroom and a supply room. They are staffed by a visiting doctor and permanent health auxiliaries, paramedics and nurses. In addition to medical diagnosis and treatment, immunization, nutrition and health education, supplementary feeding and sanitation, hygiene and disease control instruction, members of the staff give

first aid and are responsible for pregnancy detection and family planning; normal birth delivery; supervision of the growth and development of the child; and the dispensing of medicines for the treatment of intestinal parasitism and malaria.

Tests are given to detect malaria and tuberculosis and the aim is to vaccinate the total target population against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, smallpox, polio and yellow fever. Health volunteers give attention to problems of water storage, latrine construction and garbage disposal.

The MAC, its health stations, and professional and auxiliary staffs are important to improve the quality of life of the women and children of the Colombian urban slums. This project is an international service representating Zonta's dedication to the education and health care of women and children, to the improvement of the status of women, and to the support of the United Nations.

For further information:

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Immunization Sparks Community Action

Health

Let us imagine that you are a woman on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent. At one end of the island is a lush green mountain which you know is a volcano. Your grandmother says it kicked up a terrible fuss in 1902, but it is not anything to worry about. Then, on 13 April 1979, red hot rocks, the size of oranges, fly through the air! Your instant thought—find the children! The baby is in your arms, the toddler is nearby, the six-year old—there he comes, crying like the others and frightened like the others, by the terrible noise, the rain of volcanic dust and rocks, and the shaking of the earth. You must take the children and run towards the other end of the island. You head for the banana plantation. At the very least, the big leaves will afford some protection from the hot dust.

After a long run, you come to a building with a tin roof. Everybody wants to go in there, but small children and their mothers have priority. Eventually camps are set up and help begins to trickle in. Much of the help comes from the Baptist World Alliance, the Brother's Brother Foundation, the Canadian Foundation for World Development, and Rotary International, which as non-governmental organization affiliates, have already alerted their constituencies to the medical and educational needs of the Caribbean island countries, including, of course, St. Vincent. Their work was initiated with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as part of their contribution to the International Year of the Child (IYC) 1979.

When independence came to Granada, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Ministries of Health of these island countries began to invite non-governmental organizations to join in partnership in an expanded Immunization Programme. This would be for children under five years of age, and all women of child-bearing age, against the diseases of diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. Each of the above agencies was already contributing resources, so when the volcano erupted they were ready to offer immediate help to the immunization programme

under the co-operative leadership of the Baptist World Alliance and the Brother's Brother Foundation.

A majority of volunteer and full-time team workers were women. They served in every capacity. More than 100 were immunizing nurse technicians, interviewing and recording statistics. Many others acted as clerks and secretaries assisting the Ministry of Health. These women worked along with "adopted personnel", which included volunteer workers from Canada and the United States. Thus began an exchange of technical "know-how", including the uses of media, radio and television to bring health and nutrition information to the people.

Co-operation in training local medical personnel, organizing teams of concerned persons, accumulating transportation facilities, and preparing vaccines and refrigeration units has continued. Follow-up programmes are being prepared. For this, contributions have been solicited for gifts-in-kind such as school and library books, nutritional aids, vegetable seeds, vitamins and medical equipment.

Today, there is in St. Vincent a new calmness after the volcano. People are rebuilding their country and their lives. Women are now calling for "Continuity Teams"—teams of concerned persons—through which regular immunization in regional clinics should become free for all.

For further information:

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777 United Nations Plaza
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Curehome for Alcoholic Women

Health

Nearly half the alcoholics in the world are women, and housewives make up the largest single category of female alcoholics. An alcoholic mother has a 50–50 chance that her baby will be born deformed and retarded. Ironically, while nine of 10 alcoholic wives are left by their husbands, only one out of 10 women will leave an alcoholic husband.

To help women fight the grim battle against the bottle, the White Ribbon, Norwegian Women's Totalabstinence Society, a branch of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU), runs the Riisby Curehome in Norway.

Surrounded by mountains, lakes, forests and farms, Riisby is located near Dakka—a picturesque Norwegian village, a three-hour train ride from Oslo.

At Riisby there are rooms for 32 patients and its subdepartment, Grainer, accommodates eight more. The patients are women between 15 to 75 years of age. Occasionally there is a couple.

In September, a new pavilion opened at Riisby—a beautiful house with 16 single rooms for patients. It also has treatment rooms and offices. Efforts are being made to add another pavilion for housing the patients' children.

A staff of 35 qualified doctors, psychologists and nurses helps rehabilitate women to a life without alcohol. School lessons are compulsory for the younger girls, most of whom are school drop-outs. Older, uneducated women are also encouraged to attend the classes so that they will be better equipped to lead a normal life. Three teachers are employed for that purpose.

The White Ribbon, which owns and runs the home on a no-profit basis, bought Riisby in 1960 and Grainer in 1972. The social security office to which the patients belong pays for their stay. Other members of the WWCTU send gifts from time to time and the Norwegian Government is also giving some financial aid.

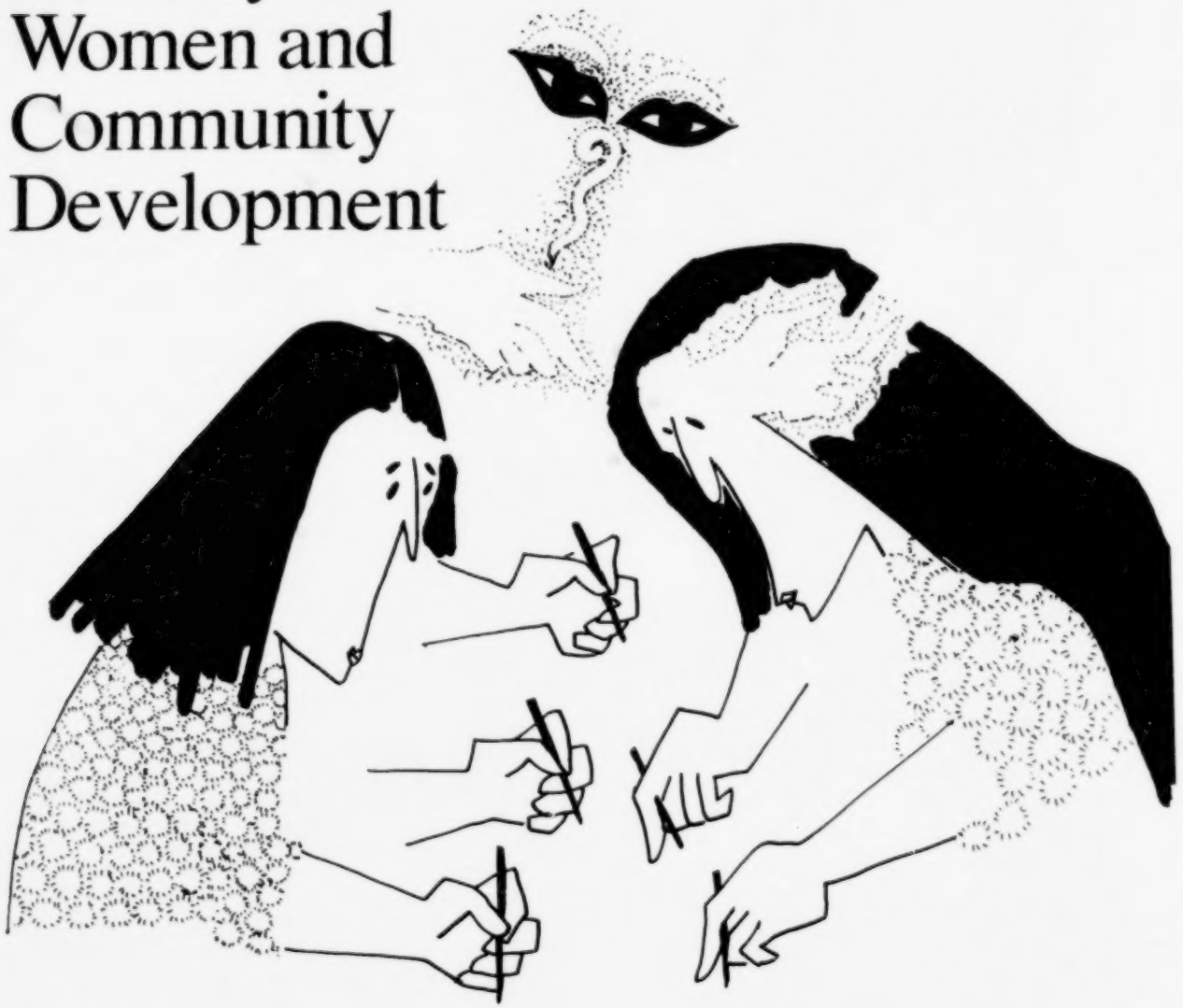
The project receives substantial publicity through social welfare offices, doctors and WWCTU members.

A similar curehome opened in Switzerland in 1975, and in Sweden the WWCTU runs a 24-hour clinic for alcoholics in one of the most downtrodden red light sections of Stockholm.

For further information:

Maria Molvik
The White Ribbon
Norwegian Women's Totalabstinence Society
5169 Malvikgrend
Norway

Literacy for Women and Community Development



Education

Ninety per cent of the population of Nepal is illiterate. Women constitute more than half of the country's total population. Since Nepal's economy is primarily agricultural and, as farming methods are becoming more and more complex, learning to read and write is all the more important. A farmer and his wife, once literate and retaining their literacy, can draw on this asset for the rest of their lives, and pass it on to their children.

The Nepal Women's Organisation (NWO), affiliated with the International Council of Women, has found that an approach which focuses on everyday tasks and everyday needs (technically known as "functional literacy") gives the best and most lasting results. In its campaigns since 1965, 5,402 women have learned to read and write, and 270 teachers have been trained.

Now the aim is to arouse consciousness of responsibilities and rights. The first step towards such awareness is self-reliance—the ability to stand on one's own feet financially.

The Nepal Women's Organisation helps women to achieve this self-reliance by teaching them handicrafts and manual skills, how to set up cottage industries, how to raise poultry, and methods to preserve all kinds of food including the fruit and vegetables they grow themselves.

The development of community centres is encouraged. These centres are then used both for literacy classes and for training women to become

self-sufficient. The two activities are complementary. A woman who has had no interest in learning to read can often be persuaded to do so, if by becoming literate, she can learn new skills. For example, simple arithmetic can help her keep accounts at a vegetable shop.

Each district, which consists of about 50 to 60 villages, needs 450 teachers.

It is difficult to provide this number and students are often asked to give up some of their vacation time to help the campaign.

Once people have learned to read, their new knowledge must be used if it is not to be lost. So the NWO plans to provide a regular supply of books, magazines, and newspapers to be transported to villages by jeeps or ponies. A special monthly magazine for new literates is being planned on a pilot basis. As a means of encouragement, a small sum of money will be given to the teacher for making one illiterate woman literate. Various organizations, as well as the King of Nepal, have encouraged NWO in its work by providing funds as well as by visiting adult literacy centres.

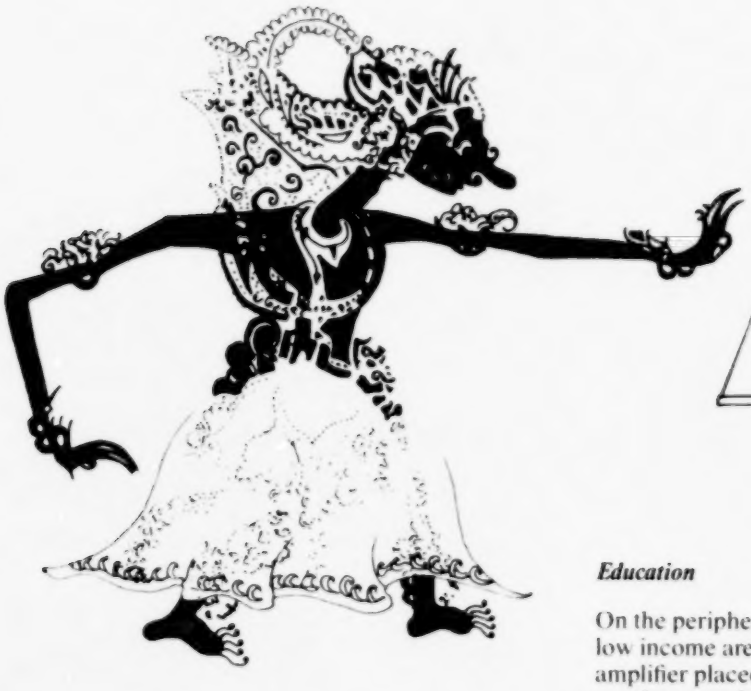
The organization's current project is a training course to create a cadre which will then be used to train adult literacy teachers, with emphasis on family planning. Participants will be asked to attend a central workshop training course for one week. On returning home, the cadre will be expected to train others.

Follow-up and evaluation programmes on this project are a continuing activity.

For further information:

Mrs. Anschuetz
International Council for Women
13 Rue Caumartin
75 Paris GE
France

Consumer Protection in Indonesia



Education

On the periphery of a very large open air market in a low income area of Jakarta, a voice booms from an amplifier placed in a stationary van, telling the moving crowds of buyers that they must buy wisely for the health, safety and income of their families.

They are invited to take the free literature on the table set up nearby and to talk to the woman from the YLK, the Indonesian Consumer Protection Association. She stands behind the table and tells them about nutritious foods, safe products and accurate weights and measures, and lets them use the scales on her table to check the weight of any products they have purchased. A man hesitantly approaches the table and places a very large package on the scale. He is shocked to find that it is 200 grams less than the amount he paid for. The YLK representative tells him his rights as a consumer, and advises him to return to the stall with the package and insist on being given the right amount. If refused, he is to report to the authorities, through the representative. A Government official accompanies the man to the stall, notes the name and number of the seller, and issues a warning while the seller readily corrects the error. The customer is satisfied.

Each day the YLK Mobile Information Unit goes to several large markets in Jakarta as part of its programme of consumer protection. It has won recognition by the Government as an effective non-governmental organization. Its recommendations and findings have been received favourably and acted upon. In fact, the van and amplifier are paid for by the Government. The YLK also publishes a monthly magazine for consumers and regularly contributes articles to newspapers, women's and professional magazines and broadcasts television and radio programmes on subjects of interest to consumers. It also conducts comparative testing on a wide variety of products such as soaps, bottled tea, fruit juices, soft drinks, matches, food colouring, soya sauce, various brands of cooking oil, T-shirts, pain relievers, hair products, dry batteries, condoms, candies and "TKW", a popular cheap alcoholic drink.

The findings of YLK have been most useful. For example, in the area of product safety alone, its tests showed that substandard and unsafe building materials were being used in construction. This led the Government to issue new regulations requiring the testing of all building materials. Its findings on spoilt and contaminated food resulted in a Government prohibition on sale of spoilt food and an order to destroy spoilt canned food which was being sold in several cities of Indonesia. The YLK's comparative study of 14 public swimming pools in Jakarta, resulted in a Ministry of Health regulation on hygiene and safety in swimming pools. Its recommendations have led to revised standards for testing of food products to protect against micro-organisms, dangerous food colours and additives, and to new labelling and packaging standards. Some misleading advertisements have been banned, such as one for a dangerous insecticide which claimed to be safe near food and small children.

The work goes on. Constant watchfulness is required. Advertisements of goods whose side effects are not specified, food products which contain prohibited or restricted ingredients, goods packaged with unsafe materials, misleading labels and substandard products, are still prevalent. Low levels of literacy and income enhance the opportunities to defraud, cheat and misrepresent. But through its consumer education and testing programmes, the YLK has made significant inroads. Started in 1973 by a small group operating from a one-room office, it now has an office with 19 full-time and 10 part-time staff and a group of housewives and experts serving on a voluntary basis.

For further information:

Dr. Dorothy Willner
International Organization of Consumers Unions
9 Emmastraat
The Hague, Netherlands

Market Women's Revolving Loan Fund—Honduras

Education

Being poor and illiterate, the women vendors of fruits and vegetables in the municipal markets of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, are easily exploited by money lenders who monopolize credit in the markets. The women must borrow money at an exhorbitantly high interest rate to buy the produce they resell.

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), through funding from its United States affiliate, the National Council of Catholic Women, has assisted a local Honduran agency in setting up a revolving fund from which the women can borrow at the rate of two per cent rather than 20 per cent.

In the beginning, the same system was followed as that used by the traditional money lenders since it was familiar and understood by women. Loans were made for 10 days and collections made every day. The interest collected was used to increase the fund.

Several problems soon emerged, however. It became clear that self-financing could never be achieved at an interest rate of two per cent. The repayment was longer than anticipated, again threatening self-financing. In addition, the loan portfolio was too small to cover all the needs of women.

The organizers and the women discussed several possible alternatives and decided that the interest rate would be increased to five per cent, that extra interest would be charged to those late with payments, and that efforts would be made to obtain financing to increase the loan portfolio. Financing has come from several sources, including WUCWO.

At the same time, a training programme is being developed for the women. Four courses which covered basic nutritional themes and specifically taught women how to prepare the fruit and vegetables they were unable to sell for their families' consumption. These were enthusiastically received.

However, group training is really not the answer for women who work long hours—12 hours a day, seven days a week. Thus, with additional promoters, being made possible by the support of outside women's groups, training will soon be conducted on an individual basis or at most involved with two or three women at a time, in the market or in the home.

Learning to Count the Costs

A system is also being devised which will enable illiterate women to keep a record of their expenses and assist them in determining whether they are losing money or making a profit on their sales.

A monthly meeting is held at which the problems and achievements, as well as alternatives for improvement, are discussed by the women and organizers. One indication of the project's initial success is that 63 per cent of the women using the revolving fund say that they no longer use the services of the traditional money lenders. Others use them only to cover those needs the revolving fund is unable to meet. However, as the fund grows through greater participation, that situation will be overcome.

The programme has, to date, reached close to a 100 women, and is expected to extend much further in the future.

For further information:

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World Union of Catholic Women Organizations
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Radio Programmes for Women

Education

"Life is more difficult for me than it was for my grandmother. There is not enough food. One cannot do much without money and I have very little. My daughters are not educated, only my sons. My daughters were married when they were very young. The eldest already has four children."

This is only a small part of the testimony of one woman in a village of a developing country. The number of her sisters around the world is legion. Recently, a gathering of leaders of world organizations were earnestly discussing the plight of women like her.

To provide a classroom learning experience for the nearly one billion women in third world countries, would require 10 million school rooms and teachers—if there were 100 women gathered in each room—and, if those women could find any time for formal training in their overburdened lives.

It seemed clear that formal education was no real possibility for the masses of illiterate women. A list was made of the kinds of education needed by poor women, most of whom lived in rural areas. It included health and nutrition courses, and training to increase crop yields and much more. Clearly, some avenue for non-formal education was essential to assist the masses of women living in deprivation.

One member of the group suggested that radio, if effectively employed, offered one of the best ways to reach large numbers of women day after day, week after week. To buttress the point, the Director of Women's Radio Programmes in Gambia has decided to broadcast educational programmes for women in her country. She had earlier attended a population and development broadcast training workshop held for the West African region by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Government of Cameroon.

In co-operation with appropriate agencies in her country, she will focus on: (i) *Community Improvement Programmes* which will cover health, nutrition, child care, family planning, prevention of diseases and improved methods of food production and preservation; (ii) *Family Life Education and Inheritance* to cover women's rights and privileges, polygamy, the extended family system—including examples of external pressure and interference in the home, merits of family norms and practices, aspects of these customs that need to be reviewed, and a critical examination of the family system and the position of women in their homes; and (iii) *Civil Education Programmes* which will focus on female participation in the political and decision-making process, scrutinize daily issues, and create an awareness of problems.

In her work, she will endeavour to make the programmes interesting so women will want to listen. Further, in a variety of ways, she will encourage feedback from her audience so that her programmes will increasingly focus on the real needs and concerns of women.

For further information:

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Acknowledgement
Selections for this booklet were made by the Committee on the United Nations Decade for Women at Headquarters of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Chairperson of that Committee is Esther Hymer. Illustrations were done by "Salsi".

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DPI/672

UN

UNITED NATIONS
COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

Meetings at Algiers, Algeria

28 May - 1 June 1980

"The General Assembly . . . reiterates that Namibia is the direct responsibility of the United Nations until genuine self-determination and national independence are achieved in the Territory and, for this purpose, reaffirms the mandate given to the United Nations Council for Namibia as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence;"

—General Assembly resolution 34/92 of 12 December 1979

UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

MEETINGS AT ALGIERS, 28 MAY TO 1 JUNE 1980

Organization of the Meetings

By resolution 34/92 of 12 December 1979, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Council for Namibia, in the implementation of its responsibilities as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence, to hold a series of plenary meetings in Africa in 1980 at the highest possible level, as and when required for the further proper discharge of its functions.

The Council for Namibia decided, on 23 April 1980, to accept the offer of the Government of Algeria to host the extraordinary plenary meetings of the Council, to be held at Algiers from 28 May to 1 June. The provisional agenda of the meetings, approved by the Council on 7 May, was the following:

1. Adoption of the agenda;
2. Consideration of the situation in Namibia:
   (a) reports of the Council's missions of consultation;
   (b) report on the political and social situation in Namibia;
   (c) report on the military situation in Namibia;
   (d) report on economic conditions and the role of foreign economic interests in Namibia;
3. Consideration of the implementation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia;
4. Adoption of a draft declaration;
5. Closure of the extraordinary plenary meetings.

Invitations to attend and address the extraordinary plenary meetings were extended to: the President of Algeria; the President of the General Assembly; the Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization; the Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid;* the Chairman of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries at the United Nations; the President of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO); and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Also invited to attend the Algiers meetings were: the Chairman of the Senate of the United Nations Institute for Namibia; the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the Executive Secretary of the OAU Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa; representatives of the specialized agencies of which the Council for Namibia is a member—the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the Director of the United Nations Institute for Namibia; representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC); and other individuals and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The 31 member States of the Council are: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

The Federal Republic of Germany and Panama attended the Algiers meetings in the capacity of observers.

Solemn Opening Meeting

At the solemn opening meeting of the Council's extraordinary plenary meetings at Algiers on 28 May, a minute of silence was observed in the name of Namibian patriots who have fallen in the struggle for self-determination, freedom and independence in a united Namibia.

The extraordinary plenary meetings were inaugurated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Mohamed Seddik Benyahia. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim, was read on his behalf by Issoufou S. Djermakoye, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization. The inaugural meeting concluded with a statement by the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Paul J.F. Lusaka (Zambia).

On 30 May, the Permanent Observer of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) to the United Nations, Theo-Ben Gurirab, addressed the extraordinary plenary meetings of the Council on behalf of the President of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma.

General Debate

In the general debate held by the Council from 29 to 31 May 1980, Council members emphasized the importance of the extraordinary plenary meetings of the Council at Algiers at a time when the struggle of the Namibian people for independence had reached a crucial stage.

All Council members strongly condemned the policies of repression and terror South Africa had imposed in Namibia and the escalation of its military operations against Namibian patriots under the leadership of SWAPO and against independent African countries.

Council members were of the view that South Africa had used dilatory manoeuvres to impede the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Namibia, particularly Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). In this regard, many Council members said that South Africa's reply of 12 May 1980 should be treated as a rejection by South Africa of those resolutions; a few members disagreed with that view.

The majority of members shared the view that the Security Council should adopt mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure South Africa's compliance with United Nations resolutions.

The overwhelming majority of members indicated that the Western Powers which were South Africa's major trading partners should exert pressure on South Africa to withdraw from Namibia. The support which

South Africa received from such countries had allowed it to continue its illegal occupation of Namibia and its illegal exploitation of the Territory's natural resources.

The majority of Council members expressed their strong support for SWAPO, recognized by the General Assembly as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, and emphasized the need for increased support for the liberation struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO.

The overwhelming majority of members emphasized the need to preserve the territorial integrity of Namibia, including Walvis Bay, the Penguin Islands and other islands off the coast of Namibia.

Council members condemned South Africa and all foreign economic corporations illegally exploiting Namibia's natural resources in contravention of United Nations resolutions and of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, stressing that foreign economic interests in Namibia contributed significantly to the continuation of the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa. In this regard, the majority of the Council members were of the view that steps must be taken to effectively implement Decree No. 1.

Adoption of the Algiers Declaration and Programme of Action on Namibia

On 1 June 1980, at the conclusion of its extraordinary plenary meetings at Algiers, the United Nations Council for Namibia adopted the Algiers Declaration and Programme of Action on Namibia, the text of which appears on page 16.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ALGERIA, MOHAMED SEDDIK BENYAHIA

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, said that, in the present extremely decisive phase for the freedom of the peoples of southern Africa, the deliberations on which the Council for Namibia was about to embark assumed very great significance: not only did they concern the achievement of independence by Namibia but, in addition, they were aimed at securing the triumph of law and justice, thus contributing to the surer promotion of peace and security in a particularly sorely afflicted region of the African continent, which still lived under the threat of the racists of Pretoria and was subjected to constant aggression by them.

However, the Foreign Minister continued, the independence of Zimbabwe, which had been proclaimed only a few weeks previously, had revealed the futility of bogus solutions and the urgent need for determined action to meet the wishes of the oppressed peoples. Hope was growing and taking shape in that region, he said, and it was essential not to lag behind history where the freedom of peoples and their right to self-determination were concerned.

Continuing, Mr. Benyahia said that unremitting and remarkable though the efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia had been on behalf of the people of Namibia and their just struggle, they had unfortunately been constantly hampered and challenged by the refusal of the Pretoria regime to conform to international legality and by its policy of domination and exploitation in a Territory to which it could lay no claim. That attitude, involving violation of the law and rebellion against the decisions of the international community, had invariably been reinforced by the connivance and complicity which South Africa had always enjoyed from certain Powers, he stated. Sure of that support, the Pretoria regime had always felt encouraged in its annexationist designs on Namibia. Thus, following the end of the Second World War, when the international community was proclaiming its faith in the equality of peoples and their right to self-determination, South Africa was already blatantly trying to win backing from the emerging United Nations Organization for its aim of making the Territory of South-West Africa into its fifth province.

The Algerian Foreign Minister noted that when the General Assembly had refused to endorse a proposal manifestly contrary to the spirit and letter of the Charter, the Pretoria regime, basing itself on specious legal arguments, had opposed the Territory's being placed under the international trusteeship system and had refused to co-operate with the United Nations in preparing the Territory's accession to independence.

For twenty years, Mr. Benyahia said, the United Nations General Assembly had striven unceasingly but vainly to induce the occupying Power to recognize the international status of the Territory before deciding, by a historic resolution of 27 October 1966, to terminate South Africa's mandate and proclaim the direct responsibility of the United Nations for the administration and decolonization of Namibia.

The establishment of the Council for Namibia in 1967, at the fifth special session of the General Assembly, was, in the first place, a reaction of the universal conscience to the arrogance and defiance of a regime doubly culpable by virtue of its rebellion against international legality and its policy of *apartheid*, which was today universally condemned as a crime against humanity. The establishment of the Council by the United Nations was, Mr. Benyahia added, also an act of faith by which the Organization sought to discharge its collective commitment towards the Namibian people by assuring them of the conditions which would enable them, like many other African peoples, to regain their freedom and take their place among the community of independent nations.

There was no ignoring the highly symbolic significance of that decision by the international community. Whereas, in the past, the only councils of State known to man had been closed societies which had carved out empires commensurate with their greed and had disposed of and subjugated the peoples of the world, the United Nations Council for Namibia had the distinction of being the first to embody the aspirations of a people and to guide their struggle, to administer a country and promote the attainment of its independence with respect for its territorial integrity and national unity, to form the generation which, from then on, would have to assume responsibility for the country's economic, social

and cultural development. The Council had performed estimable work, which was a glorious example of human intellect exercised on behalf of man's welfare and progress, Mr. Benyahia said. It was all the more estimable in view of the obstacles placed in the way of the discharge of the Council's mandate by those very persons whose daily actions were designed to debase man by prohibiting access to a Territory which the Council was responsible for administering and by continuing to exploit the natural resources protected by the Council's Decree No. 1. It had become clear, Mr. Benyahia said, that those who had contributed to strengthening the war machine of the Pretoria regime or had frustrated the minimal sanctions imposed on South Africa by the international community fell into the same camp and shared the same ideology.

Hence, two years after the five-Power proposal for a settlement of the Namibian situation had been endorsed by the Security Council, the facts were there to bear out the misgivings and concerns expressed at the time. South Africa continued to defer the holding of free elections under United Nations control and supervision. The plan, which had expressly provided for Namibia to accede to independence by 31 December 1978 at the latest, had so far not even begun to be applied, despite the constantly reaffirmed willingness of SWAPO and the front-line countries to work faithfully towards its implementation.

The fact remained, Mr. Benyahia continued, that the Pretoria regime did not want to relinquish its domination over Namibia. The intensification of the war of extermination which it was waging in the Territory and the diversions to which it was resorting clearly demonstrated that that regime had no intention whatsoever of abandoning its consistent position of seeking to impose a so-called internal settlement designed to enable it to maintain its seizure and control of Namibia for all time.

South Africa had never in fact denied that it was attempting to win international endorsement for that objective. That was why it had stepped up its demands regarding the implementation of the proposal for a settlement of the Namibian question. Everyone was aware of the latest such demand. Called upon to accept the principle of a demilitarized zone between Namibia, on the one hand, and Angola and Zambia, on the other, South Africa was demanding nothing less than the disarming of the SWAPO forces and a substantial number of emplacements of its own forces within the demilitarized zone. In those circumstances, Mr. Benyahia stated, it was no longer possible to accept the attitude of those who persisted in showing consideration towards such a regime when it obstinately rejected all efforts to bring about the genuine and complete decolonization of Namibia. It was necessary to accept the full implications of that law of history whereby independence is won and wrested, not negotiated. It was obvious that South Africa would only do justice to the Namibian people under constraint. The Namibian people had fully grasped that point and, under the leadership of SWAPO, had stepped up their armed national liberation struggle against an enemy which was not only heavily armed but which enjoyed impunity and powerful material support.

Since the legitimacy of their struggle was universally recognized, the people of Namibia had a right to expect, at the present critical stage for

Namibia's future, that the international community would render them decisive moral and material support, Mr. Benyahia declared. In the present circumstances, when all efforts and initiatives to arrive at a political solution on the basis of the resolutions of the Security Council had resulted in failure, when the measures taken against the supporters of *apartheid* had proved inadequate and when the threat to peace and security was growing in that region, the United Nations had a duty to apply the provisions of its Charter to induce South Africa to respect its decisions. For almost two decades, Africa had unanimously and unceasingly demanded not promises but specific and effective measures to end South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and its hegemonistic designs on the southern part of the continent. South Africa's repeated acts of aggression against the countries neighbouring Namibia were a clear indication of its expansionism and its desire to carry out its plans for the political and economic "satellization" of all the sovereign States of the region.

The aggression which the South African army had committed three days previously against Angola was a new and sinister illustration of that policy, Mr. Benyahia declared. Such actions against the countries of the region revealed an elaborate strategy which made even more disturbing the nuclear capability acquired by South Africa thanks to the solicitude of certain western Powers and the assistance of natural allies such as Israel. In the face of such dangers, no procrastination was admissible, for it would constitute a denial of justice to the Namibian people and an abdication of responsibility in respect of a rebel regime.

At the very moment when the area of colonial domination in the African continent was dwindling, particularly after the victory of the people of Zimbabwe, Africa, concerned for Namibia, turned to the Council for Namibia. Africa was all the more insistent in that it was conscious of how urgent and vitally necessary it was for its security, development and prosperity to complete its independence and to banish oppression, exploitation and shameless violation of the fundamental rights of individuals and peoples for all time.

The Algerian people, who until only recently had been oppressed and exploited, could not but display their firm solidarity with the people of Namibia, as they had done in the past with regard to genuine initiatives aimed at the liberation of peoples, the Algerian Foreign Minister declared. Having won its independence after a long armed struggle of national liberation, Algeria appreciated the exemplary nature of SWAPO's struggle for the emancipation of Namibia and its rejection of the barbarous practice of *apartheid*. The very history of decolonization had shown that liberation could be born only out of peoples' own struggle. Independence had always been won by violent actions and many-sided struggles against totalitarian regimes which had denied the very existence of freedom or based social order on so-called racial superiority.

Mr. Benyahia recalled that, since substituting itself for the trusteeship authority in the second decade of the twentieth century, the Pretoria regime had not failed to act in accordance with that logic of domination and alienation, by endeavouring to dispose of a people and

a land when the international community was disseminating on a worldwide basis the principle of the equality of peoples and proclaiming their right to self-determination, and by opposing the decision of mankind, deriving from the Charter of the United Nations or the Covenant of the League of Nations, in relation to the organization and preparation of the accession to independence of the people of Namibia.

There could be no doubt, Mr. Benyahia stated, that the present situation in the third world revealed those pernicious assaults on and constant challenges to international moral values. Colonialism and imperialism replaced the logic of the free and prosperous evolution of all peoples of the world with aggression against sovereign and independent States or repression of subjugated peoples, while continuing to adhere to the structures of exploitation. In place of the logic of the development of all human beings in solidarity and equality, they offered contempt for human dignity and fascist-style ideologies vaunting the separate development of races and their elitist stratification.

Concluding his statement, the Algerian Foreign Minister said that the tasks and responsibilities of the Council for Namibia were, of course, established by texts which the United Nations had formulated to enable it to accomplish its mission. However, beyond texts and decisions, the Council had a moral and political responsibility which made it duty-bound to take all necessary measures to prevent and denounce all machinations, of whatever origin, designed to delay independence for Namibia. Because of that moral authority possessed by the Council for Namibia, and because it had the confidence and solidarity of peoples in those efforts, it must be in a position to dissuade any Power from weakening its action or thwarting its decisions. The Council for Namibia had a historic responsibility which it could not but fully assume. Mr. Benyahia said that he wished to reiterate Algeria's confidence in the Council and to wish it every success in its work, convinced as he was of its commitment to the Namibian people and their sole and legitimate organization, SWAPO, until the achievement of final victory.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, KURT WALDHEIM

In his message to the extraordinary plenary meetings of the Council for Namibia at Algiers, the Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, said that the achievement of genuine independence in Namibia was a matter of the highest importance for the United Nations. He noted that the Council for Namibia had worked continuously and tirelessly on behalf of the Namibian people and had never ceased to defend and safeguard their rights and to sustain their cause the world over. The Council had fully succeeded, Mr. Waldheim added, in presenting to the international community the nature of the problems at stake in Namibia and had managed to gain the support and ensure the co-operation of Member States, organizations and public opinion with regard to the goals defined by the United Nations.

The Secretary-General declared that history had shown that the process of decolonization, to which the United Nations was deeply committed, was irreversible. Any attempt to oppose it would only result in arousing the resistance of those peoples whose rights had been denied. The situation in Namibia had long been characterized by a host of obstacles. The choice in Namibia was clearly between a conflict which risked daily escalation or the rapid transfer of power to the people of Namibia on the basis of free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations. The latter solution had been the choice of the Security Council when it adopted resolution 435 (1978) on 29 September 1978.

Since the adoption of that resolution, the Secretary-General said that he had made every effort to resolve the differences which had impeded its application. He had also examined with the parties concerned the proposal, first put forward by the late President Neto of Angola, for a demilitarized zone as a means to break the deadlock. Mr. Waldheim said that he considered that such a demilitarized zone constituted a practical solution which could speed implementation of resolution 435 (1978). He recalled that a few months earlier he had sent a mission to southern Africa to discuss the technical aspects of that proposal, and that the mission had held detailed talks with the front-line States, with SWAPO and with South Africa. Mr. Waldheim noted that the respective positions of those parties were contained in his report of 31 March 1980 to the Security Council. He also recalled that he had recently received a letter from the Government of South Africa stating its position with regard to the proposal and requesting certain clarifications of several other matters. The Secretary-General said that he was aware of the concern that had been expressed in relation to the South African letter and that he was currently consulting with all the parties concerned with regard to the matter. He assured the Council that his response would be in conformity with the spirit and letter of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), as well as with the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Concluding, the Secretary-General said that the situation in Namibia had reached a point at which indispensable political decisions had to be taken and that the efforts made to resolve the problem must transcend, without delay, the stage of discussion to that of action. If the opportunity for a peaceful and speedy settlement of the question were lost, he said, the consequences for the peace and stability of the region would be very severe.

STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF SWAPO TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THEO-BEN GURIRAB

The Permanent Observer of the South West Africa People's Organization to the United Nations, Theo-Ben Gurirab, said that SWAPO saw the situation in Namibia as ominous, with ghastly consequences for southern Africa. The racists and their imperialists mentors, he stated, were intensifying their political subterfuge and beefing up their military arsenals for

terrorism and aggression. They were waging psychological warfare and economic blackmail through a sinister campaign of destablization and sabotage throughout southern Africa.

On the one hand, Mr. Gurirab declared, they talked of peace and co-existence, but on the other hand they continued to bomb, destroy and kill. They talked of co-operation but their actions only created conditions for ever-escalating discord and war in the region.

Continuing, Mr. Gurirab said that the question of Namibia was above all a colonial problem which called for nothing less than total decolonization leading to genuine independence of Namibia, including Walvis Bay. The legitimacy of the struggle of the Namibian people by all necessary means, in particular the armed struggle being waged by SWAPO, had been recognized by the international community with the exception of racist South Africa and its allies, he said.

SWAPO regarded the Council for Namibia as a fellow adversary and a partner against the illegal occupationist regime of Pretoria until Namibia had acceded to full and unfettered independence.

There was a dire need for rethinking and refocusing within the United Nations concerning the question of Namibia, Mr. Gurirab said, and added that the basic principles upon which the question of Namibia rested were:

—that Namibia remained the direct responsibility of the United Nations;

—that Namibia was a colony illegally occupied by racist South Africa;

—that Walvis Bay was an integral part of Namibia and was non-negotiable now or in the future;

—that all actions, unilateral measures and illegal acts by the occupying regime were null and void and of no consequence to the genuine independence of the Territory, whether through the bullet or the ballot;

—that the two principal parties to the colonial conflict were SWAPO and the Boer junta representing the colonial interests;

—that the Council for Namibia should never allow a situation to arise whereby its authority and responsibility were usurped and undermined;

—that the Council should devise more effective methods to give practical effect to its Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia; and

—that the just and legitimate struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative, should be given all-round and increased material, military, political, financial and diplomatic support and assistance to further intensify its struggle for the liberation of Namibia.

Those were some of the essential elements which derived from the mandate of the Council, the Permanent Observer of SWAPO declared.

As to the recent so-called reply to the Secretary-General from racist South Africa, Mr. Gurirab said that SWAPO's considered view was that it was negative; it put the United Nations plan on ice for a very long time to come. The reply, in effect, indicated that the United Nations plan was dead. It was a rejection, he said.

South Africa's intransigent position had remained exactly the same since the adoption of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It insisted on the same outrageous and extraneous demands which, if agreed to, would legitimize the installation of a puppet regime of its own choosing in the Territory to the detriment of the interests of the heroic struggle being waged by the Namibian patriots.

Mr. Gurirab recalled that the Secretary-General had observed in his report of 31 March 1980 that all the pertinent information and clarifications had been given by the United Nations and that "we have come to the point where the necessary political decisions have to be taken to move this matter from the stage of discussion to the stage of implementation". SWAPO was ready and willing to co-operate fully in the implementation, beginning with a cease-fire between it and the Boers, Mr. Gurirab said, and leading to free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations. Clearly, he declared, racist South Africa had prevented implementation by its words and actions.

Concluding, Mr. Gurirab said that the Council for Namibia should urge and invite the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations against the illegal regime of South Africa as the only effective alternative to end that illegality. Meanwhile, the Council for Namibia and SWAPO should endeavour to secure increased support and co-operation in the common struggle for the liberation of Namibia. The final document of the plenary meetings at Algiers must be a programme of concrete action, Mr. Gurirab said, and not merely a reaffirmation of previously expressed principles.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, PAUL J. F. LUSAKA (ZAMBIA)

The President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Paul J. F. Lusaka (Zambia), said that after ten years of heroic struggles in which many Namibians had lost their lives and during which the Namibian people had received increasing support from the international community and also from the United Nations itself, an effort had been made to establish the conditions for a negotiated settlement of the question of Namibia with the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 385 (1976) on 30 January 1976. While many laborious and frustrating steps were being taken to advance a negotiated settlement, the Council for Namibia had maintained its steadfast support for SWAPO, intensified its activities of political mobilization and expanded its programme of assistance to the Namibian people.

Throughout the negotiations, Mr. Lusaka stated, SWAPO had always acted with great statesmanship and vision as, at the same time, it had intensified the armed struggle and revealed to the world the demoralization of South African troops whose soldiers were deserting the colonialist and racist Pretoria regime and finding homes in other parts of

the world. It had been the blood of Namibian heroes, Mr. Lusaka declared, that had awakened the conscience of the international community to the brutal exploitation of the people and resources of Namibia, and it had been the struggle of SWAPO assisted by the international community that had brought South Africa to the negotiating table. The United Nations had envisaged general elections under its supervision and control as the key element of a series of transitional measures, endorsed by Security Council resolution 435 (1978), for the achievement of independence in Namibia.

Once the terms of a negotiated settlement were firmly agreed upon, Namibians would have the opportunity to participate in free and fair elections under United Nations supervision and control. The recent elections in Zimbabwe had shown the world how successful patriotic forces could be in free and fair elections, Mr. Lusaka said, and added that he had no doubt that given the same atmosphere of free and fair elections under the aegis of the United Nations, SWAPO was bound to win. That was probably the reason why the South Africans were dragging their feet, he declared.

The establishment of a demilitarized zone was also a fruitful and important concept in the unfolding of the negotiations but, Mr. Lusaka noted, its application had to be based on the equal treatment of the parties concerned, namely South Africa and SWAPO.

In the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council, the Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, had played an important role with his outstanding skill as a patient and tenacious mediator, Mr. Lusaka declared. But above all, the Secretary-General was bound by the decisions of the Security Council as well as by the resolutions of the General Assembly in developing his efforts to implement a negotiated settlement. Namibia was the responsibility of the United Nations until independence, and any action to be taken involved all United Nations resolutions as background for the final achievement of Namibian independence. After prolonged negotiations, it was clear that the international community looked with impatience for the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

Much effort had been spent in opening a path for a negotiated settlement. The raising of irrelevant issues to distract attention from the main elements of the negotiated settlement was a vain manoeuvre. The issues had been exhaustively reviewed; no one could be misled in the interpretation of issues which were now thoroughly understood. South Africa should learn from the wisdom of the people of Zimbabwe, who were building their independence with the full awareness of contemporary realities. South Africa should learn from the strength of the commitment of Namibian patriots to the liberation of their land from the oppression of the illegal occupation regime.

The international community had shown that it would not remain indifferent to the suffering of the Namibian people, Mr. Lusaka said. The wheels of history turned slowly but they turned nonetheless and eventually gathered speed that none could arrest. For too long the Namibian people had been victims of the colonialist and racist occupation of South Africa. Countless Namibians had suffered harassment, detention, torture

and execution in the attempt of the Pretoria regime to perpetuate its control over the people and resources of Namibia. Namibian workers had had to work for starvation wages, separated from their families and restricted to intolerable living quarters. In fact, the policies of South Africa in Namibia constituted a form of genocide against the African population. The rules and regulations put into force by the occupation regime had established a repressive atmosphere of terror imposed by the State. At the same time, throughout the years, South Africa had systematically put into practice its abominable system of *apartheid*, which had been condemned as a crime by the international community. That system had been further reinforced by the policy of so-called "homelands" in an attempt to divide the people of Namibia for South Africa's own nefarious purposes. It had established tribal armies and recruited mercenaries in a desperate effort to prevent the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people to self-determination, freedom and independence in a united Namibia.

Continuing, the President of the Council for Namibia stated that South Africa had also pursued a course of action aimed at destroying the territorial integrity of Namibia. Walvis Bay, which was tied to Namibia by geographic, cultural and economic links, had been the object of governmental decrees of annexation in the vain hope of preserving South African control over Namibia under all circumstances. The General Assembly had condemned those activities by South Africa as illegal, null and void. More recently, South Africa had persistently manoeuvred to upgrade its racist supporters and present them to the international community as members of the so-called "national assembly", the election of which had been declared null and void by the Security Council.

SWAPO had met those challenges with courage and firmness. The People's Liberation Army of Namibia, which had been no more than a handful in 1966, had grown to become a strong and heroic vanguard of the liberation struggle of the Namibian people.

The United Nations Council for Namibia was fully aware of the dimensions of the challenge posed to the international community by the illegal administration of South Africa in Namibia, Mr. Lusaka stated. The Council, as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence, had throughout the years intensified international political mobilization to press for the withdrawal of the illegal South African administration. The Council had firmly supported SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, as recommended by the Organization of African Unity when the Council, in its early days, had received the petitions of Namibians who had presented to it a grave and disturbing picture of the situation in Namibia.

The Council, in consultation with the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia and SWAPO, had endeavoured to develop programmes of assistance to the Namibian people. The results had been most gratifying, Mr. Lusaka declared. They reflected not only the commitment of the United Nations to the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people but also the increasing willingness on the part of the international community to render material assistance for the cause of Namibia. The United Nations Fund for Namibia had grown substantially from year to year. The estab-

lishment of an indicative planning figure for Namibia by the United Nations Development Programme was a significant victory to sustain the credibility of the United Nations in its effort to assist the Namibian people. The United Nations Institute for Namibia, established in Lusaka, Zambia, was a unique achievement of the United Nations that clearly reflected the decisive capability of international action in support of a just cause. The Institute, with 300 students, had graduated its first class in December 1979. They would constitute the nucleus of devoted Namibian patriots who would be prepared for the arduous task of organizing a new and independent Namibia. The Nationhood Programme, a broad set of projects to train Namibians in many new areas of competence, had received substantial funds from Governments and the specialized agencies of the United Nations to expand to the utmost the skills of the ever-increasing generations of young Namibians. In the context of the Nationhood Programme, the Government of Angola had generously offered to host an important centre in basic skills for Namibians, to be established with the assistance of the international Labour Organisation.

The Council for Namibia had been profoundly aware of the devastating consequences for the future of Namibia of the ruthless exploitation of the natural resources of the Territory by foreign economic interests in collusion with the illegal administration of South Africa in the Territory. It was against that background that the Council had enacted Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia. In that connexion, Mr. Lusaka noted, the Council had decided to draw the urgent attention of the international community to the exploitation of uranium and to carry out extensive hearings to expose to the international community the scale of the plunder of the natural resources of Namibia, and it would certainly formulate important measures for consideration and approval by the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

In conclusion, Mr. Lusaka declared that the struggle of the Namibian people to fulfil their legitimate aspirations was its own reward. In the struggle, Namibians had gained insights into the complexity of the contemporary world and had mastered many of the difficult techniques which would serve them well in the peaceful construction of a free and independent Namibia. The Council would do its utmost to bring that day even closer to reality. Thus, Mr. Lusaka stated, let no one underestimate the commitment of the Council to implement its mandate as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia until independence in support of the aspirations of the Namibian people. The Council would not hesitate to recommend any action that in its considered view would serve the cause of international peace and security as well as freedom and national independence in a united Namibia for the people of that Territory.

The cause of Namibia was a just one, Mr. Lusaka declared, and it had the support of the overwhelming majority of the members of the international community. The moment was one of decision; the Council for Namibia believed that firm action by the Security Council must be taken as early as possible to force South Africa to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and to fulfil the original commitment of the United Nations to support the aspirations of the Namibian people to freedom and independence in a united Namibia.

ALGIERS DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON NAMIBIA

Adopted by the United Nations Council for Namibia at Algiers on 1 June 1980

I. DECLARATION

1. The United Nations Council for Namibia held a series of extraordinary plenary meetings at Algiers from 28 May to 1 June 1980. The meetings were held in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/92 A of 12 December 1979 in order to carry out an appraisal of the critical situation in Namibia resulting from the continued illegal occupation of the Territory by South Africa and a review of the current efforts of the United Nations to implement the resolutions of the Security Council, in particular, resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). Such an appraisal assumed greater urgency in view of the insidious schemes of South Africa aimed at installing a neo-colonial puppet regime in Namibia, to the total exclusion of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which is recognized by the United Nations General Assembly as the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia and is a respected member of the international community.

2. Inaugurating the extraordinary plenary meetings of the Council, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, stated:

". . . The people of Namibia have a right to expect, at this critical stage for Namibia's future, that the international community will render it decisive moral and material support . . . On this African soil which today hosts your Council, the Algerian people, who until only recently were oppressed and exploited, cannot but display their firm solidarity with the people of Namibia as they have done in the past with regard to the genuine initiatives aimed at the liberation of peoples. Having won its independence after a long armed struggle of national liberation, Algeria appreciates the exemplary nature of SWAPO's struggle for the emancipation of Namibia and its rejection of the barbarous practice of *apartheid*. The very history of decolonization has shown that liberation can be born only out of peoples' own struggle. Independence has always been won by violent actions and many-sided struggles against totalitarian regimes which had denied the very existence of freedom or based social order on so-called racial superiority."

3. Greeting the Council on the occasion, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said in a message:

"The Council has fully succeeded in presenting to the international community the nature of the problems at stake in Namibia . . . The choice (in Namibia) is clearly between a conflict which risks daily escalation or the rapid transfer of power to the people of Namibia on the basis of free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations."

4. In the weeks preceding its extraordinary plenary meetings, the Council sent missions of consultation to Australia, Barbados, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States. The missions held consultations and exchanged views at the highest possible political level in order to identify ways in which efforts could be intensified to secure implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council designed to ensure the speedy independence of Namibia. Another mission of the Council is expected to leave at the conclusion of these extraordinary plenary meetings for similar consultations with the Governments of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Kuwait and Iraq.

5. The Council considers that its extraordinary plenary meetings at Algiers, coming in the wake of the independence of Zimbabwe, have marked a new stage in the struggle for the independence of Namibia at a time when colonialism and racism are making desperate attempts to prevent their final disappearance from the face of the earth. It hails the victory of the Patriotic Front forces in Zimbabwe as the victory of all the liberation forces in southern Africa, one which has provided a powerful inspiration to the oppressed people of South Africa and laid the foundations for the early independence of Namibia.

6. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966, declared Namibia a direct responsibility of the United Nations. In its resolution 2248 (S-V) it established the Council with the responsibility of administering the Territory until independence. Despite the consistent efforts undertaken by the United Nations since that date, the aspirations of the Namibian people for self-determination, freedom and national independence remain unfulfilled. South Africa has continuously defied all demands of the General Assembly and the Security Council to withdraw its illegal administration from the Territory and allow the Namibian people to achieve self-determination, freedom and national independence in a united Namibia on the basis of free and fair elections under United Nations supervision and control. The refusal of South Africa to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations on the question of Namibia constitues a grave challenge to the authority of the United Nations.

7. In view of the background of South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia and its persistent refusal to co-operate with the United Nations in efforts designed to terminate peacefully that occupation, the people of Namibia have had to resort to armed struggle to protect their national integrity and to strive for the liberation of their country, under the

leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. As a result of that intensification, heavy losses in personnel and equipment have been inflicted on the South African army and its morale is being constantly undermined by the heroic stand of the Namibian patriots leading to cases of desertion, refusal of service and conscientious objection.

8. Namibian patriots today, therefore, face a ruthless escalation of the brutal and repressive actions by which the colonialist and racist illegal administration of South Africa intends to perpetuate its exploitation of the people and resources of Namibia. The Namibian people are being subjected to constant harassment, detention and inhuman practices as well as to massive displacement of communities, to serve the military objectives of the illegal occupation regime. Mercenaries are being constantly recruited to participate in the genocidal violence unleashed by the racist exploiters in an attempt to break the spirit of Namibian patriots conducting a courageous war of national liberation in the Territory. Members and supporters of SWAPO are being jailed, tortured and killed for resisting racist oppression and exploitation in their country. The illegal South African occupation regime continues to increase its militarization of the Territory, where it maintains over 70,000 troops and a continuously expanding number of military bases. South Africa has also attempted to increase its intimidation of independent African countries through the development of a nuclear weapons capability which further threatens international peace and security.

9. The Council strongly condemns the continuous and systematic aggression which has been committed by the racist regime of South Africa against both Zambia and Angola, the latest instance being the armed aggression against Angola on Sunday, 25 May 1980, resulting in substantial destruction of property and the loss of over 200 Angolan lives.

10. At the same time that the Pretoria regime is unleashing this reign of terror and death against SWAPO and against neighbouring African States, it is engaged in a number of manoeuvres whose undisputed purpose is the creation of administrative structures controlled by neo-colonialist puppets under an entity which would be masquerading as an independent government but which would, in fact, be a tool of Pretoria's expansionist and exploitative designs in southern Africa.

11. These manoeuvres are being relentlessly and determinedly carried out by South Africa behind the facade of its apparent willingness to negotiate with the United Nations on the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). South Africa's deliberate prevarication and delaying tactics throughout these negotiations and its most recent response of 12 May 1980 in respect of the proposed establishment of a demilitarized zone between Namibia and Angola and Namibia and Zambia in the context of implementation of that resolution, constitute yet further confirmation of its contempt for the United Nations, its desire to perpetuate its illegal occupation of the Territory, to frustrate the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people to self-determination and

national independence and to deceive the international community into acquiescing in these efforts. The Council expresses its deep concern at the most recent response of the South African Government. The Council concludes that the response is a negative step which indicates that South Africa is not prepared to implement the United Nations plan for Namibia.

12. The Council deplores the fact that South Africa's Western collaborators have permitted the pursuit of these insidious manoeuvres by refusing to exert the necessary pressure on the Pretoria regime to comply with the decisions of the United Nations on Namibia. The Council also deplores in the strongest terms the fact that these States have continued their collaboration with the racist regime, thus fortifying it in its defiance of the United Nations. This collaboration continues even in the face of South Africa's continued contempt for the settlement plan originally proposed by the Western Powers and accepted by the international community.

13. The Council vehemently condemns the colonialist and racist regime of South Africa for its systematic attempts to perpetuate its illegal occupation of the Territory of Namibia and to undermine and eliminate SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia. The Council also condemns in the strongest terms South Africa's attempts at undermining the unity and the national and territorial integrity of Namibia. In this regard, it vigorously condemns South Africa's bantustanization policies, its policy and practice of *apartheid*, and its unilateral and illegal acts, such as the extension of the territorial sea and the proclamation of an economic zone off the coast of Namibia.

14. The Council declares that Namibia must accede to independence with its territorial integrity intact, including Walvis Bay. The Council unequivocally reaffirms the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council to the effect that Walvis Bay is an integral part of Namibia and that any action by South Africa to separate Walvis Bay from Namibia is illegal, null and void. The Council further reaffirms that the territorial integrity of Namibia is inviolable and that any additional steps which South Africa may undertake in the future to undermine the unity and integrity of Namibia are illegal, null and void.

15. The Council reaffirms its support for SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. The Council also commends the heroic people of Namibia, under the leadership of their liberation movement, SWAPO, for having intensified the armed struggle for the liberation of their Territory from South Africa's illegal occupation. At the same time, the Council considers it proof of SWAPO's statemanship and its love of peace that it has displayed sincerity, flexibility and a spirit of accommodation throughout the process of negotiations and has always expressed readiness to participate in fair and free elections.

16. The Council reaffirms its solidarity with the southern African frontline States which have been forced by South Africa to pay such a high

price, both in terms of life and of property, for their devotion to freedom and national independence in the region.

17. The Council reaffirms that the natural resources of Namibia are the inviolable heritage of the Namibian people. The rapid depletion of the natural resources of the Territory as a result of the systematic plunder by foreign economic interests in collusion with the illegal South African administration is a grave threat to the integrity and prosperity of an independent Namibia. In particular, the continuous illegal exploitation of Namibian uranium is to the detriment of Namibia and its people. It was in this context that the Council declared in its Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia that "no person or entity, whether a body corporate or unincorporated, may search for, prospect for, explore for, take, extract, mine, process, refine, use, sell, export, or distribute any natural resource, whether animal or mineral, situated or found to be situated within the territorial limits of Namibia without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or any person authorized to act on its behalf for the purpose of giving such permission or such consent". The Council underlines the importance of effective implementation of this Decree, which was approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, on 13 December 1974, and condemns its violations, including the illegal exploitation of Namibia's marine resources in its territorial waters.

18. The Council solemnly reaffirms its unswerving commitment to the service of the Namibian people. The creation of the United Nations Fund for Namibia, the establishment of an indicative planning figure for Namibia in the United Nations Development Programme, the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Namibia at Lusaka, with the support of the Government of Zambia, and the Nationhood Programme for Namibia represent areas of positive benefit for the people of Namibia. In 1980 the Council, with the support of the Government of Angola and the assistance of the International Labour Organisation, is establishing a basic vocational centre to be situated in Angola to contribute to the increase of the productive skills of Namibia.

19. The Council expresses its appreciation for the generous support which Member States have been giving to SWAPO, the United Nations Fund for Namibia, the United Nations Institute for Namibia and the Nationhood Programme for Namibia, thus facilitating the expansion of programmes of assistance to the Namibian people.

II. PROGRAMME OF ACTION

20. Having assessed the current situation in Namibia, the Council considers that, in view of South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia, its intransigence as demonstrated most recently by its communication to the Secretary-General dated 12 May 1980, along with its repeated acts of armed aggression against the people of Namibia and

the neighbouring African States, the situation in Namibia constitutes a threat to international peace and security. It accordingly adopts the following programme of action in order to ensure South Africa's compliance with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on Namibia and to attain the objective of peace in the region.

21. The Council invites the attention of the Security Council to the present critical situation in Namibia and requests it to convene urgently to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on South Africa as provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

22. The Council calls on the international community to intensify efforts for the complete and effective isolation of South Africa and, in this regard, calls for the exposure to the widest international scrutiny of those foreign economic and other interests whose collaboration with the racist Pretoria regime buttresses the machinery of exploitation in Namibia and contributes to the perpetuation of the subjugation of the people of the Territory.

23. The Council urges all Member States not to recognize any so-called internal settlement of the question of Namibia. Free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations are an essential prerequisite to any peaceful settlement in Namibia.

24. The Council calls upon the international community to increase all possible support to every plan of action which would enable SWAPO to pursue its strategies in the military, political and diplomatic fields and so disabuse South Africa of any notion that it can rest secure on its alleged military strength.

25. The Council decides to promote every effort for the speedy implementation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia. Steps will be taken to strengthen the legal basis of Decree No. 1 by clarifying the existing link between the Decree and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council to make it more effective in those countries whose Governments consider it to be a mere recommendation of the General Assembly. The Council will continue to monitor the illegal exploitation of Namibian uranium to reveal to the international community the reckless and destructive actions of South African and other foreign economic interests against the welfare of the Namibian people. As a first step, the Council will conduct hearings on Namibian uranium in July 1980 to determine what further action can be taken by the United Nations to ensure compliance with the decisions of the General Assembly.

26. The Council calls upon the international community, in solidarity with the southern African front-line States which have borne and continue to bear great sacrifices on behalf of the oppressed people of Namibia, to intensify efforts to render as a matter of urgency all support and assistance which would enable them better to exercise their legitimate right of self-defence in respect of South Africa.

27. The Council calls upon the Security Council to declare categorically that Walvis Bay is an integral part of Namibia and that the question should not be left as a matter for negotiation between an independent Namibia and South Africa.

28. The Council will undertake all necessary action to ensure that South Africa's false claims with respect to the Penguin and other islands along the coast of Namibia are declared illegal, null and void by the relevant organs of the United Nations.

29. The Council, recalling the Maputo Declaration of 1977, recommends that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the President of the Council and in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, for consideration by the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, a proposal to convene in 1981 an international conference in support of the struggle of the Namibian people.

30. The Council, mindful of South Africa's communication to the Secretary-General of 12 May 1980, urges the international community to join in a massive campaign of mobilizing international opinion against South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia, giving massive public exposure to the Pretoria regime's acts of terrorism against SWAPO members and supporters as well as against neighbouring independent African States and its attempts to undermine SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia and to confer legitimacy on its puppets.

31. The Council intends, through the organization of seminars on Namibia and related activities, systematically to expand contacts with non-governmental organizations, journalists, students, trade unions and others, in order to promote the cause of the struggle of the people of Namibia for freedom and independence.

32. The Council decides to counter South Africa's acts to extend illegally, in its own name, the territorial sea of Namibia and to proclaim an exclusive economic zone for Namibia. The Council intends to use its own authority to extend the territorial sea of Namibia and to proclaim an exclusive economic zone for Namibia.

33. Against the background of the preceding analysis of the current situation in Namibia, in this final phase of the liberation struggle of the people of Namibia, the Council solemnly renews its commitment to the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly and dedicates itself afresh, and with the utmost energy, to fulfilling the terms of that mandate. In this regard, it considers that the Programme of Action represents a commitment to SWAPO and to the people of Namibia, and expresses its determination to continue to explore all possible options which would help to hasten South Africa's withdrawl from Namibia and the recovery by the people of that Territory of their freedom and independence.

DECREE NO. 1 FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF NAMIBIA

Adopted by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 27 September 1974

Conscious of its responsibility to protect the natural resources of the people of Namibia and of ensuring that these natural resources are not exploited to the detriment of Namibia, its people or environmental assets, the United Nations Council for Namibia enacts the following decree:

DECREE

The United Nations Council for Namibia,

Recognizing that, in the terms of General Assembly resolution 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966, the Territory of Namibia (formerly South West Africa) is the direct responsibility of the United Nations,

Accepting that this responsibility includes the obligation to support the right of the people of Namibia to achieve self-government and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Reaffirming that the Government of the Republic of South Africa is in illegal possession of the Territory of Namibia,

Furthering the decision of the General Assembly in resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, which declared the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources,

Noting that the Government of the Republic of South Africa has usurped and interfered with these rights,

Desirous of securing for the people of Namibia adequate protection of the natural wealth and resources of the Territory which is rightfully theirs,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 21 June 1971,

Acting in terms of the powers conferred on it by General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions regarding Namibia,

Decrees that

1. No person or entity, whether a body corporate or unincorporated, may search for, prospect for, explore for, take, extract, mine, process, refine, use, sell, export, or distribute any natural resource, whether animal or mineral, situated or found to be situated within the territorial limits of

Namibia without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or any person authorized to act on its behalf for the purpose of giving such permission or such consent;

2. Any permission, concession or licence for all or any of the purposes specified in paragraph 1 above whensoever granted by any person or entity, including any body purporting to act under the authority of the Government of the Republic of South Africa or the "Administration of South West Africa" or their predecessors, is null, void and of no force or effect;

3. No animal resource, mineral, or other natural resource produced in or emanating from the Tertitory of Namibia may be taken from the said Territory by any means whatsoever to any place whatsoever outside the territorial limits of Namibia by any person or body, whether corporate or unincorporated, without the consent and permission of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council;

4. Any animal, mineral or other natural resource produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia which shall be taken from the said Territory without the consent and written authority of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council may be seized and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the said Council and held in trust by them for the benefit of the people of Namibia;

5. Any vehicle, ship or container found to be carrying animal, mineral or other natural resources produced in or emanating from the Territory of Namibia shall also be subject to seizure and forfeiture by or on behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia or of any person authorized to act on behalf of the said Council and shall be forfeited to the benefit of the said Council and held in trust by them for the benefit of the people of Namibia;

6. Any person, entity or corporation which contravenes the present decree in respect of Namibia may be held liable in damages by the future Government of an independent Namibia;

7. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and in order to give effect to this decree, the United Nations Council for Namibia hereby authorizes the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, in accordance with resolution 2248 (S-V), to take the necessary steps after consultations with the President.

DPI/672—41134—August 1980—30M